THE TIMES

30P

No. 65,549 TUESDAY APRIL 9 1996



MONDAY APRIL

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Sir David [illegible] bird of paradise spec[illegible] Guinea's forest to [illegible] borough in Paradise [illegible]

Review: The Easter [illegible] drama was clearly the [illegible] point, says Lynne Truss

OPINION

Enlisting God

Air mail

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COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MO[illegible]

PETER RIDDELL

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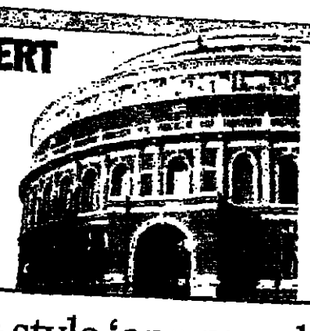
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No to Blair-style 'one member, one vote'

Left defeats NUT plan for reform

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

MILITANT teachers inflicted a devastating defeat on moderates trying to extend democracy in Britain's biggest teaching union yesterday when they threw out "one member, one vote" reforms limiting the powers of local branches and the national conference.

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers had proposed automatic ballots on conference decisions in a package reminiscent of Tony Blair's "new Labour" reforms. But every element was voted down in a humiliating rebuff for Doug McAvoy, the general secretary, who described it as a sad day for the NUT.

The proposed changes had been supported by almost 85 per cent of 39,000 members who voted in a union poll, but leftwingers at the conference in Cardiff said that the 19 per cent turnout was too low to be a reliable guide.

They went on to win the key vote to refer the ballots idea back to the union executive by 28,000 votes, and with the executive swinging further to the left this year, the scheme may now be dead.

Mr McAvoy said that the decision might cost the union members because teachers would see that far-left groups were clinging to power. His fears were reinforced by Nigel de Gruchy of the National Union of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, who said that the votes would help his union to overtake the NUT. The NUT has 175,000 members, compared with 300,000 in the Sixties; NAS/UWT membership has risen to 157,000.

Mr McAvoy insisted, however, that he would continue to press for the kind of union that would have resulted had the conference accepted his recommendations. "I find it difficult to understand what justification delegates have for rejecting the proposal that conference decisions should be put to members for endorsement," he said.

"Some of those who claim to represent their members know that they do not do so, but are determined anyway to keep in their hands the power to determine union policy."

Apart from rejecting Mr McAvoy's reforms, the conference maintained its reputation for militancy in a number of fields. Delegates called for strikes in any schools where teachers were "victimised" as a result of the new school inspection system, which they said should be scrapped. They also said that "hit squads" for failing schools should be disbanded and demanded walkouts at premises that are considered unsafe. Today, if time permits, the conference will vote on a new boycott of classroom tests.

In the debate on union democracy, Graham Smith from Newham, east London, said that the NUT had been hijacked by a minority. Most teachers had neither the time nor the inclination to attend "tedious" union meetings.

"People get there to be greeted by raucous newspaper sellers. They get inside to be subjected to a long harangue by half a dozen sad individuals about the need to waste their own money on the Socialist Workers' Party." The proposed reforms, he said, were "our opportunity to start reclaiming this union for the overwhelming majoity of members."

But Bill Goodswen of Kirklees said the reforms would herald "tick box" democracy that was an insult to trade union values, and Jane Coombs of east London, said: "I came to conference having been ratified by members in a ballot. Why do I need to be ratified again?"

Activists' strategy, page 2



"Told you their left wing was dangerous"



Coventry striker Dion Dublin, right, comforts team-mate Dave Busst after an accidental collision in which he broke his leg so badly that it required three hours of surgery last night and could threaten his livelihood (Rob Hughes writes). The accident came at Old Trafford, Manchester United's ground, and drained a 50,332 holiday crowd of the relish of Manchester United going for the championship, or the fear of Coventry City perhaps going down. Busst, 28, was stretching in search of the fifth goal of his career. He crashed against United's Irish international Denis Irwin, and instantly the whole ground fell into a hush. The leg was at a grotesque angle, and it took nine minutes to swab the goalmouth clear of blood, after part of the bone had come through the flesh. Dublin, whose own career as a Manchester United player was ended by a badly broken leg, was on hand as Coventry's captain to try to console Busst, along with Liam Naish, left, and the Manchester United player Brian McClair.

"You hope never to see that in a young, clean-cut defender, you never want it to happen," commented Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager. He was the only man willing to speak of the accident, a compound fracture. The 22 players filed away ashen-faced from a match that, if anyone still cared, was ultimately won by a single goal from Manchester United's Eric Cantona.

Match report, page 19

Moment of horror silences fans

Head tells of school arson

A primary school headmistress told last night of a campaign of intimidation waged against her after she identified youths who broke into a teacher's car.

Judith Elderkin said six weeks of terror came to a head on Sunday night with an arson attack on Marlborough Road Infants' School in Salford, Greater Manchester. Mrs Elderkin, a member of the National Union of Teachers' executive, spoke about her ordeal as the union demanded new measures to improve school security. Doug McAvoy, the General Secretary, said the school shared many of the problems of access and a lack of perimeter fencing that concerned the union nationally.

The reign of terror began just days after Mrs Elderkin and two colleagues helped police to identify a number of youths who broke into a teacher's car and stole a radio. Almost 40 windows were broken in one weekend bout of vandalism. A few days later Mrs Elderkin found a group of youths on the school roof. When she ordered them down, they responded with a hail of stones.

Salford Education Authority posted a 24-hour guard on the school, at a cost of £1,800 a week. The guards themselves were taunted by local teenagers for "protecting grasses". One was inside the building when fire broke out on Sunday.

Speaking at the NUT's conference, Mrs Elderkin said: "I came to the conference feeling fairly secure because the school was being guarded, but I did not imagine for a moment what would ensue. Schools should be a safe haven."



Judith Elderkin: attacked

Plastic bullets fired at rioting loyalists

BY NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RIOT police opened fire with plastic bullets last night after loyalists in Belfast attacked RUC officers with bottles and petrol bombs.

In the most serious rioting in Northern Ireland since last summer's marching season, an elderly woman had a suspected heart attack as police clashed with up to 1,000 loyalists on the Ormeau Road in south Belfast. The loyalists threw empty beer bottles, metal bars and planks at the police and broke into a garage to try to set fire to the roof. The RUC later blamed outsiders for orchestrating the unrest.

The rioting began about 5pm after a tense stand-off between the marchers and the RUC that had continued all day. Loyalists were furious that the RUC had banned the Apprentice Boys from marching along the nationalist Lower Falls Road.

Police in armour-plated vehicles blocked off the road at first light to prevent the parade from passing through at 7.30am. This led to sporadic skirmishes in which three police officers and two civilians were injured.

The violence increased when a loyalist band from Carrickfergus, Co Antrim, joined the protest late in the afternoon and staged an impromptu march down the Ormeau Road in support of the Apprentice Boys. As the band tried to force its way through the police blockade on the Ormeau Bridge, officers in riot gear were ordered to disperse the loyalists.

Shortly afterwards, another loyalist band tried to march through the police lines. Within minutes, masked loyalists ran out of side streets and threw petrol bombs at the police lines. Officers retaliated by firing scores of plastic bullets into the crowd.

Sinn Fein begrudgingly praised the RUC for rerouting the march. Pat McGeown, chairman of the Sinn Fein group on Belfast City Council, said it was insulting for loyalists to march through a nationalist area.

London shares fall feared

Shares in London are expected to fall sharply today after stocks and bonds plummeted in New York in delayed reaction to buoyant US employment figures published on Good Friday. Trading was temporarily halted to restore calm but the Dow Jones industrial average had fallen 138.73 points, or 2.44 per cent, by midday. Page 36

Liberia peace collapses

Fighting in Liberia between government troops and supporters of a deposed warlord was believed to be spreading and tens of thousands of people sought refuge in diplomatic compounds in Monrovia. Many thousands have fled the capital for the Ivory Coast. Page 9

Skier killed

A British woman died after falling 1000ft on to rocks while skiing off-piste in the French Alps. The 32-year-old from London, whose identity was not released, was skiing with her husband at 7,260 feet near Grave.

Mackay seeks curb on European court

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor is to make an unprecedented visit to Strasbourg next month to seek backing from other countries for curbs on the European Court of Human Rights.

The proposals for restricting the court's powers come after a series of embarrassing rulings, which has put Britain almost at the top of the league table for breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights. The court held recently that the Government was wrong to order a journalist to disclose his sources. In February the Home Secretary was held to have no right to specify when child killers should be released.

A document outlining Britain's position has been drawn up by the Foreign Office and issued to all 38 members of the Council of Europe, which have power to alter the court's procedures. Lord Mackay of Clashfern will put Britain's case for greater controls on the way the court's judges are selected and a strengthening of the principle that the court should not interfere with "long-standing laws and practices" except where "manifestly contrary to the convention".

In particular, the Government wants to ensure that the court pays "full regard to the decisions by democractic legislatures and differing legal traditions".

The initiative coincides with a move for curbs on the European Court of Justice at the European Union's intergovernmental conference and the reform of the human rights court. Lord Mackay and the Government will seek to reduce the influence of the reorganised court. The proposals include informal vetting of judges before their nomination.

There is concern that the quality of judgments may be weakened because of the rapidly expanding size of the Council of Europe.

A further proposal is for some kind of pre-trial procedure, as is common in English courts, to "hone" down the issues.

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Washington press welcomes Blair visit

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

Tony Blair and Michael Heseltine will today lead a cavalcade of senior politicians into the fray for final campaigning in the Staffordshire South East by-election. Their arrival underlines the significance of the tightly-fought contest that could reduce the Tory majority in the Commons to one.

Both main parties acknowledge that Thursday's voting will be closer than other by-elections in recent years. Labour claims its private polls point to victory, while Tory strategists are pinning their hopes on large numbers of voters who have yet to make up their minds. The result may well hinge on the turnout in a week when many are on holiday.

TONY BLAIR'S arrival in Washington later this week, the first visit by a Labour leader in six years, is generating more interest — and noticeably more positive coverage — in the US media than the Prime Minister's regular visits do.

Mr Blair was yesterday the subject of an enthusiastic four-page profile in the mass-circulation *People* magazine. "In less than two years he has thoroughly reshaped Labour, which hasn't won a general election in 22 years, by stripping away the trappings of its socialist past to attract middle-class voters," it declared.

A weekend article in *The Washington Post* called Mr Blair a "premier-in-waiting" and his transformation of Labour's electoral prospects a "minor political miracle". A *New York Times* interview with Mr Blair last week led off with his assertion that a Labour government would seek not to dismantle Thatcherism — so popular in America — but remedy its shortcomings.

The weekly magazine *US News and World Report* said Mr Blair had "firmly positioned Labour in the centre" and suggested that if he and President Clinton both won their approaching elections "the empathy between the two could match the harmonious Reagan-Thatcher era". Indeed, it would be the first time since 1979 that Britain would have a Labour Prime Minister while a Democrat occupied the Oval Office.

Most flattering of all was a 12-page profile in February's *New Yorker* magazine headlined simply: "The Next Prime Minister". Its author, Sidney Blumenthal, is hosting a reception for Mr Blair on Thursday evening, one of a series of events designed to introduce the Labour leader to the American media during his two-day visit.

Between meetings with President Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore and other top administration officials he is breakfasting with the *Washington Post* editorial board, giving a press conference at the National Press Club, attending a media lunch organised by an ABC executive, and giving interviews to the main television networks.

Mr Blair will not be meeting Bob Dole, the Republican presidential nominee, or Newt Gingrich, the Republican House Speaker. Congress is not sitting and neither man intends to be in Washington.

John Smith, Mr Blair's predecessor, did not manage to visit Washington while he was Labour leader before his death in 1994. Neil Kinnock visited in 1990, in part to repair the damage of his disastrous visit in 1987 when President Reagan did his best to assist Margaret Thatcher, his ideological soulmate, before Britain's approaching general election.

Mr Reagan made clear his opposition to Labour's unilateralism and treated his visitor with minimum courtesy. Mr Blair can bank on far better treatment from Mr Clinton, who has little affection for a Conservative Party whose officials advised President Bush on ways to defeat him in 1992.

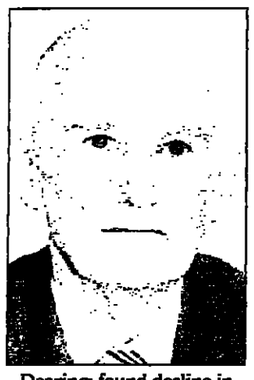
The US media response to Mr Blair's visit, which begins on Thursday, suggested that the attempt by the Conservative Central Office's research department to discredit the trip with a memorandum headed "Blair's un-American activities" had failed. The document, which had been sent to Republican-sympathising journalists in the United States, evoked unfortunate memories of the McCarthyite era.

Woodrow Wyatt, page 14

Loss of adventurous vocabulary and sentence structures highlighted

Survey prompts a heated debate on writing skills

BY LIN JENKINS



Dearing: found decline in proper use of grammar

THE decline in writing skills among teenagers detected in a new study has fuelled the debate among educationists about modern teaching methods. Some say the study shows that pupils are not being given a proper grounding in standard English. Others argue that it does not reflect with any accuracy the intelligence and levels of education being achieved by 16-year-olds today.

The study, reported in *The Times* yesterday, is by the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate which compared examination papers from the 1980 O level in English with those from English GCSE students in 1994. Researchers concluded that there had been a sixfold increase in non-standard English, an increase in the frequency of incorrect spelling and a decline in the correct use of punctuation. Pupils did not employ the adventurous vocabulary and sentence structures of their counterparts 14 years earlier.

Michael Marland, head of the 2,000 pupil-North Westminster Community School spent the Easter weekend producing worksheets to teach how words are constructed with prefixes and suffixes derived from Latin.

While cautious about whether the study compared like with like, since only the most able pupils in 1980 would have been entered for O level, he believes it unmasks the failure of English teaching.

"I am of the opinion that for many years now we have not been teaching the English language. We have been assuming that students will pick it up while they are reading literature. Reading is necessary but not sufficient to learn language.

"Too many people believe that spelling is an external politeness, whereas in fact, it is a clue to language." He said the derivation of spelling was underplayed in modern teaching where the emphasis was on phonetics. Many children were not even taught basic punctuation, such as the use of the semi-colon.

He said he was not arguing for regional differences to be ironed out, but felt that children needed to be taught standard English.

Concerns raised by the study will be brought before the Schools Curriculum Assessment Authority by the National Association of Head Teachers. David Hart, the association's general secretary, said it confirmed the conclusion of Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, that students entering university did not have as good a grounding in grammar as was used be the case.

"We have to give serious consideration to what they are saying. We have to look at the GCSE syllabuses to see if in fact they are deficient in these key areas."

He dismissed the argument that today's pupils were better at creative writing tha those of the past. "Creative writing should go hand in hand with good grammar. All writing should have good grammar as a foundation."

He said head teachers were particular worried that the results of the study reflected the heavy workload of the current curriculum.

"We really cannot afford to have such a cluttered curriculum that teachers are diverted from concentrating on the basics. We need to ensure that good grammar begins in primary schools," he said.

Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, defended modern methods and standards.

Leading article, page 15



Lester Koopman, the South African who is co-ordinating the placements

British schools employ black South Africans

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

BLACK teachers are being recruited from South Africa to work in Britain's inner-city schools.

Ten black people from South Africa have been taken on by Britain's largest supply teacher agency, and the agency hopes to have more than 100 by the end of 1997.

TimePlan, the London-based agency which places 600 temporary teachers in the capital's schools each day, has held two recruitment tours and employed a South African teacher to help co-ordinate placements.

Ian Penman, co-director of TimePlan, said: "There is a clear shortage of black teachers in London who can also act as role models for black children. We do not produce too many of them in this country but South Africa does."

The Department for Education and Employment confirmed the proportion of non-white teachers was lower than the number of people of ethnic origin. "There are no quotas for teachers," a spokesman said. "They are employed for their ability as a teacher and not for any other reason, but we would welcome moves to bring good teachers from ethnic minorities into the population."

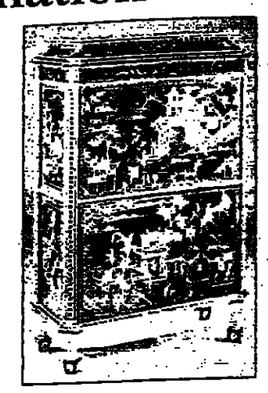
The South Africans' work visas are limited to two years. Mr Penman said: "We are not part of a brain drain taking the best people from South Africa never to return. Clearly there is a benefit when they go back to South Africa, too. London is a tremendously successful multiracial community in many ways and it is good for South Africans to see that working."

TimePlan also employs white South Africans and large numbers from other Commonwealth countries.

Lester Koopman, the South African, one of the first South Africans to sign up with TimePlan, is now co-ordinating placements. He said: "This was the answer to my dreams because I wanted to travel overseas.It was possible to come over here and work so I could pay off my student loan. Many more coloureds will be coming over."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chippendale desk saved for nation



A unique piece of Chippendale furniture, an exquisite 1773 lady's writing desk believed lost for decades, has been saved for the nation. Some £436,500 has been raised to return it to its original home, Osterley Park House in west London, the National Trust property that Horace Walpole once described as a "palace of palaces". The desk appears in a 1922 photograph of Osterley's dressing-room, unaltered since it was decorated in the early 1770s by Robert Adam in an Etruscan style. The original bill for £26, a sizeable sum then, had survived, but the trust had long been searching for the actual piece. The Government stepped in to allow a British buyer to match the purchase price offered to a London dealer and keep it in Britain, such is the desk's importance as a heritage item. Responding to the National Trust's plea for help, an anonymous benefactor donated £100,000, the National Heritage Memorial Fund gave £261,500 and the National Art Collections Fund provided £75,000. The desk is veneered with Chinese lacquer. The upper section has a fall front which opens to reveal a range of drawers and pigeon-holes; the lower section opens with two doors revealing three long drawers. All the original interior fittings have survived. The piece will go on show at Osterley at the beginning of next month.

Girls pocket more

Girls are receiving more pocket money than boys for only the second time in 22 years, possibly because they are becoming increasingly assertive about asking their parents for more money. The average weekly allowance for children is £2.40, up 35p on last year, with £2.39 for boys and £2.41 for girls, according to the annual Wall's Pocket Money Monitor. The group which has fared best over the past 12 months are 5-7 year-olds, who have £1.09 to spend each week, well up on last year's figure of 75p. The 14-16 year-old age group receives an average £4.40 a week.

Government loses £5m

Property worth almost £5 million has vanished from government departments over the past five years. Among the more noticeable items are a thermal imaging device from the Ministry of Defence valued at £118,000, Royal Navy rockets worth £104,000, and a Home Office horsebox which cost £6,500. Losses have been steadily accelerating, rising from £416,437 in 1991-92 to £1,973,042 in the last financial year. They totalled £4,941,409 over the past five years, according to government figures compiled by the Labour Party from ministers' written answers.

Cameras call after killing

A Home Office minister has backed calls for closed-circuit television to be installed in Chapeltown, Leeds, following the weekend robbery and murder of Stevan Popovic, 74, when he stopped to ask for directions. Police expressed disappointment yesterday at a lack of witnesses coming forward with information. Timothy Kirkhope, MP for Leeds North-East, is supporting a CCTV scheme with West Yorkshire police and the local council. He said: "Had it been in place, there is a strong possibility that at least one camera would have assisted in identification of the culprit."

Boy dies in bike plunge

A teenager died and his cousin was seriously injured when the trail motorcycle they were riding crashed down an embankment into the river Lyon near Perth. Stuart Pilmer, 13, from Carlisle, who was on holiday in Scotland with his family, was treated at the scene by emergency services and then flown by helicopter with his cousin to Dundee Royal Infirmary. He was pronounced dead soon after arrival. Paul McGarva, 16, also from Carlisle, suffered serious injuries and was described last night by a hospital spokesman as "stable but poorly".

Child for BBC widow

The widow of John Schofield, a BBC reporter shot dead in Croatia last year, has given birth to their baby. Susannah Schofield, 29, gave birth to 8lb 6oz Charlotte at St Thomas's Hospital in London. Schofield was killed last August on an assignment for Radio 4. He was 29. It was learnt in November that his wife was expecting their first child. Mrs Schofield said then: "I am very happy at the news, but also very sad that John will never know the child. He would have been a brilliant father." The couple had been married for two years.

New Royal Park hope

Waste tips betwen the East End and the M25 could be transformed into the largest of London's Royal Parks if the Millenium Commission accepts an application from the Royal Parks Agency for £28 million of National Lottery money to create an eastern equivalent to Richmond Park in the west. A decision is expected this month. Stretching from Rainham to the M25, the provisionally named Millenium Park would take in land presently used for gravel extraction and waste tipping as well as some parkland.

Tax staff collect £4.2m

A syndicate of 19 Glasgow tax inspectors has won £4,245,315 in last week's rollover National Lottery. The staff from the Inland Revenue's Centre One office in East Kilbride are expected to collect their winnings today. Each receives £223,437.63. Another of the five jackpot ticket winners, Lynn English, 28, of West Derby, Merseyside, who is pregnant, learnt of her £4.2 million prize hours after being told that she would lose her job when the pet shop where she works closes.

How fifty left-wing teachers planned coup against union

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

Labour was accused of trying to "out-Tory the Tories" on education policy by the country's second largest teachers' union yesterday. Peter Cole, president of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, speaking at the union's annual conference in Glasgow, said: "Hypocrisy and cant are very much to the fore in the politics of education. The naivity of Harriet Harman in believing that a private-life decision to send her second child to a selective grant-maintained school could be separated from a public-life philosophy is staggering."

THREE political groupings vie for influence on the left of the National Union of Teachers. All three were working in concert yesterday to defeat the leadership's plans to extend democracy in the union.

Leftwingers have been planning their strategy for months. Activists met in Leicester at the end of January to organise their campaign of resistance to the union's "one member, one vote" proposals which could destroy the militants' power base within Britain's biggest teaching union.

The Leicester meeting provided an illustration of the disproportionate influence wielded by the far Left. It was attended by fewer than 50 NUT members, yet on the floor of conference this weekend leftwingers have won all the big votes. Carole Regan, a long-standing member of the Socialist Teachers' Alliance (STA), the leading group on the Left, has chaired the conference as this year's president. She will be succeeded next year by Christine Blower, who supports the other main leftwing coalition, the Campaign for a Democratic and Fighting Union (CDFU).

The STA, which includes members of Militant and other groups on the Left of the Labour Party, is a well-organised political machine co-founded by Bernard Regan, Ms Regan's husband and fellow executive member. He has masterminded the Left's strategy with Ian Murch, a former treasurer of the union and leading light of the CDFU. Between them, the two groups accounted for a third of the union's executive last year and have strengthened their position in pre-conference elections.

Neither group was involved in the rowdy scenes at last year's conference, directed at David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary. Most of those taking part in that disturbance were members of the Socialist Workers' Party, which split from the STA after a bitter post-mortem about the impact of the protest.

The Socialist Workers' Party has little influence on the executive, but is well represented on the conference floor. Most of those who harangued Mr Blunkett were back this year, and the party's supporters were prominent in the more orderly demonstration against Gillian Shephard.

All three groups find it easy to wield influence in the NUT's increasingly moribund local associations. A succession of delegates bemoaned the low level of participation in union affairs yesterday. Bill Moorehead, of the Northern TUC executive, recalled regular meetings of 100 members in Co Durham, which had now dwindled to single figures.

Militant victory, page 1

How much are your toys and dolls worth?



Demand is high just now for French and German-made dolls, clothing and accessories, according to our annual forecast of auction market trends. Diecast models, tinplate toys and trains by Dinky, Hornby and Märklin are also very popular.

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Easter will give way to chill

BY GEOFF KING

THE end of the Easter break brought heavy traffic on many roads last night and a warning that the warm sunshine enjoyed by much of the country would give way to a wintry chill.

Delays were reported on routes to resorts and attractions. Sea mists and high cloud kept sunbathers away from South Coast beaches. Theme parks reported one of their busiest Easters.

Sunshine will return to some areas today but the London Weather Centre said that easterly winds later in the week would bring a drop in temperature, rain and the possibility of snow on higher ground in the north.

The RAC said last night: "There was congestion around Chester Zoo, Skegness was very busy and there were long delays on the M55 heading for Blackpool even though the weather was not that great." An accident on the A74 southbound caused an eight-mile tailback in Dumfries and Galloway and holidaymakers returning from the Lake District were slowed by an accident on the M6.

The AA said a chemical spillage on the M1 in Sheffield closed part of the motorway for three hours. "Roads are busy coming back from the New Forest, Lake District, South Coast and West Country," a spokesman said. Both motoring organisations said that as schools were still on holiday the rush back may be staggered.

Heathrow and Gatwick reported numbers up on last Easter. Heathrow said the most popular destinations had been Florida, the Far East and the Eastern Mediterranean, including Turkey.

Forecast, page 18

MI5 joins Cabinet Office

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR MI5 official has been appointed to oversee Britain's intelligence and security organisations and will be responsible for ensuring secret material is properly disseminated throughout Whitehall.

After criticisms by Sir Richard Scott in his report on the sale of arms-related equipment to Iraq, the Government promised improvements to the way intelligence was passed between departments. The Scott report disclosed that key evidence of a British company's involvement in the Iraqi supergun affair was not relaid to Customs.

The MI5 official who has moved to be intelligence co-ordinator in the Cabinet Office, will be expected to act on Sir Richard's criticisms of the management of secret material.

His appointment, which has not been officially announced, is part of a renewed effort by John Major to ensure that the security and intelligence agencies do not withhold material. Two MI5 officers knew of suspicions that a British company, Forgemaster, was making huge steel tubes as gun barrels for a possible Iraqi supergun yet neither of them passed this information to Whitehall's Restricted Enforcement Unit, which monitors sensitive export sales.

The new intelligence co-ordinator answers directly to Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, and chairs various groups responsible for intelligence management.

The shake-up comes as two of the intelligence agency chiefs retire. Dame Stella Rimington retired as director-general of MI5 at the end of last week, and was succeeded by Stephen Lander, 48, who takes over today.

Son of castle maid hopes DNA tests will show he is heir to wealthy estates

Welsh car worker wants to exhume laird he believes is his grandfather

By Gillian Bowditch

A WELSH car worker plans to apply to the Scottish courts in the next few weeks to exhume the body of a distinguished aristocrat for DNA testing in an attempt to prove that he is the man's illegitimate grandson.

Ken Matthews, who lives near Swansea, wants to exhume the body of Andrew Mansel Talbot Fletcher, 10th Laird of Saltoun, who died in 1951 and is buried in the family vault in the churchyard at East Saltoun, near Haddington, Lothian, and who was the owner of valuable estates in Scotland and Epping.

Mr Matthews is convinced that he is the laird's grandson and a descendant of Andrew "The Patriot" Fletcher, who died in 1716 and occupies a special place in Scottish history as one of the strongest opponents of the Union with England.

Mr Matthews, the father of a teenage son, has spent years trying to unravel his family history. He was born in a workhouse in Wales in 1937 and nine months after his birth was given up for adoption, a fact he discovered only as an adult. Attempts to trace his parents were initially unfruitful as adoption papers which should have been lodged in the court in Neath were missing.

Eventually, spurred on by a mysterious illness which may prove to be hereditary, he discovered that his mother was Ivy Pinn, a maid at Margam Castle, near Swansea, which was owned by the Fletchers before being sold in the late 1930s. He traced two half-sisters who told him about his mother, who had died in 1988, before he had a chance to meet her. But they could give him little information about his father, who is recorded on his birth certificate as "unknown".



Ivy Pinn: she worked at Margam Castle in 1930s

He then turned his attentions to Margam Castle and managed to trace some of the servants who had worked with his mother. Penny Matthews, his wife, said: "We were expecting to hear that his father was the under-gardener or something like that. We were amazed when we were told it was the laird."

Several former members of staff were prepared to tell their stories on video. They said that that Ivy Pinn had had a 12-year affair with John "Jock" Theodore Talbot Fletcher, 11th Laird of Saltoun, and that he was Mr Matthews's father. Mr Matthews has been told that the laird and the chambermaid were relatively open about their relationship and were often seen together.

Mr Fletcher's marriage to Nora Gabbett-Mullenhan in 1933 was dissolved after four years, within days of Ivy giving birth to her son. The couple had no children. Ivy was sent away and all links with the castle were cut.

In August 1994, Mr Matthews and his wife visited the 4,000-acre Copped Hall estate in Essex where Mr Fletcher was living, aged 90. According to Mrs Matthews, Mr Fletcher had been friendly until they mentioned the name of Ivy Pinn. Then he clammed up and they were asked to leave.

A request for a blood sample from Mr Fletcher for DNA testing was met with a "curt rebuff" from his solicitors, according to Mrs Matthews. In April last year Mr Fletcher died and was cremated. His estate passed to his nephew, Andrew Fletcher.

Mrs Matthews insists her husband is not motivated solely by money, although the Fletcher estate is said to be worth millions. Jock Fletcher had inherited money from his spinster great-aunt, Emily Talbot, one of the richest women of her day, whose family gave its name to Port Talbot.

Mr Matthews suffers from fainting fits and is anxious to discover whether the condition is hereditary. Mrs Matthews said: "This is a very frustrating time. Ken needs to find out what is wrong with him and what causes the fainting. The only way he can do this is by tracing his family, but we've been blocked at every turn."

The Matthewses have the backing of their MP, Don Anderson, and are intent on pursuing their claim through the Scottish courts. A firm of Scottish solicitors has been appointed and Mrs Matthews says an application for an order to exhume the body of Andrew Fletcher will be made soon.

Such applications, although rare in Scotland, are not unprecedented. An application is made through the relevant Sheriff Court and the Sheriff decides whether or not to grant the order.

If Mr Matthews can establish a link with the Fletchers, he will be able to claim Scottish ancestry of a high distinction. Andrew "The Patriot" Fletcher was the eldest son of a prosperous laird, Sir Robert Fletcher of Saltoun, and inherited the title at the age of 12.

His mother, Katherine Bruce, claimed descent from the grandfather of Robert the Bruce. In 1955 a plaque was erected to him by the Saltire Society at East Saltoun church. Every September the society organises a meeting at the church to honour his memory.

Mr Matthews's plans to pursue his claim will be resisted strongly by the Fletcher family. William Barr, of the Cambridge solcitors Mills & Reeve, said: "Asking to exhume other people's relatives is, to put it mildly, in extremely bad taste. Mr Matthews's claims are completely without legal foundation and any attempt at exhumation will be very strongly resisted."



Ken Matthews at Margam Castle. His wife insists that he is not motivated solely by the Fletchers' wealth



Jock Fletcher and his great-aunt, Emily Talbot, one of the richest women of the late Victorian era

Twins in canal had given up careers

By Stewart Tendler

IDENTICAL twins killed and dumped in a London canal abandoned promising careers and a middle-class home to become alcoholic beggars, police said yesterday.

Anthony Langford, 38, once trained as a solicitor and Christopher worked as a landscape gardener for a council near their home at Bromham, Bedfordshire. But the red-headed boys, sons of a schoolteacher, became alcoholics before they were 20 and died with a reputation as drunken fighters and beggars.

When sober they were quiet and intelligent: drunk, they were a different story. One voluntary worker said yesterday: "They were fiery haired and fiery natured. When they got drunk all the unhappiness came out."

Their bodies were found 50 yards apart in a stretch of the Regent's Canal in Islington, north London, close to public gardens where they sometimes slept. Christopher's body was found on March 26. He had head injuries which at first were thought to have been caused by a boat's propeller. Police could not identify him.

Anthony's body, wrapped in a blue blanket, was found last week. He had been beaten around the head. A policeman recognised him and the two bodies were later linked.

Police believe they had both been in the water for some weeks. They probably died at about the same time, possibly close to their birthday on March 12. In the next few days police will drain the canal where the bodies were found.

Detectives believe clues to the deaths could lie among other down and outs. The two men may have died in a fight with other alcoholics or they may have been involved in buying small amounts of amphetamines, run up debts and fought over the money.

Last night their family remained silent at the three-bedroom family home. The twins also had an older sister and brother. Their mother left when they were quite young and their father remarried. The twins kept in touch with birthday cards and messages but never returned to the family home in Bromham.

Academic claims Shakespeare was closet Catholic

By Alan Hamilton

A PLAY long seen as one of Shakespeare's lighter romantic comedies is in truth a daringly subversive attack on Elizabeth I's persecution of Roman Catholics, according to an Oxford academic.

Love's Labour's Lost has puzzled scholars, convinced there must be more to it than a daft story of French courtiers who take an oath of celibacy, only to find themselves challenged by a group of women.

Now Margarita Stocker, a fellow of St Hilda's College and a lecturer in English literature, claims to have cracked the code and to have exposed the playwright traditionally seen as head of public relations for the Protestant Tudor dynasty as a campaigner for minority Catholic rights.

Dr Stocker, 40, found her first clue in Shakespeare's naming of his daughters Susanna and Judith. "The names are taken from the Apocrypha, books of the Bible denounced as bogus by the Protestant establishment of the time. They demonstrate the playwright's determination not to bow to the authorities." Ten years after Judith was born, Shakespeare wrote *Love's Labour's Lost*.

"The play's central figure of the princess is cunningly imbued with many of the characteristics of the biblical Judith, regarded by Catholics as their heroine. Judith's biblical enemy Holofernes also appears in the play, as a repellent schoolmaster of the same name."

According to Dr Stocker, the play also contains cryptic references to contemporary political events. The theme of sexual intrigue at the King of Navarre's court is a satire on Henry IV of France's cynical conversion to Catholicism in order to gain the throne.

Dr Stocker, whose conclusions appear in the new edition of the *Shakespeare Yearbook*, said: "*Love's Labour's Lost* is Shakespeare's most enigmatic play but, when set in historic context, its meaning becomes startlingly clear. The play is shot through with clever anti-Protestant gibes."

Shakespeare clung to his Catholic faith despite the dangers, she says. "Writing *Love's Labour's Lost* was terrifically daring. It gives us a new view of our most famous playwright as a subversive rather than an establishment toady."



Stocker: reinterpreted *Love's Labour's Lost*

Anne Barton, professor of English at Cambridge, said Dr Stocker's theory "sounds like rubbish to me. I thought we had got away from using *Love's Labour's Lost* as a secret play containing all kinds of hidden messages. Shakespeare's father probably died a Catholic though he had done everything to present himself as a conforming Protestant, but there is no proof whatever about Shakespeare himself.

"*Love's Labour's Lost* is a wonderfully Elizabethan play, full of pyrotechnics and wordplay, that has no need of elaborate theories."

Ramsden's serves up fish and chip record

THE world record for sales of fish and chips was broken when more than 12,100 portions were served at Harry Ramsden's in Melbourne on Good Friday. There was a queue of up to half a mile for what Egon Ronay has described as Britain's "most distinctive contribution to world cuisine".

The first portions were served at 7.45am and by closing time about two tonnes of haddock, imported from Britain, had been fried. The previous record, of 11,900 portions, was set in 1992 at Harry Ramsden's in Glasgow, according to the *Guinness Book of Records*.

Harry Ramsden opened his first chip shop in 1929 in Guiseley, West Yorkshire. It became famous for hosting a fish-and-chip eating marathon in 1952.

The Melbourne branch opened last year. There are branches in Hong Kong and Dublin and plans to open in Jeddah, Singapore and Spain. The publicly owned company had pre-tax profits of nearly £1 million last year.

Princess's private face goes on show

From Quentin Letts in New York

A STUNNING portrait of the Princess of Wales went on public show for the first time yesterday, two years after its creation. Shaded by melancholy, it involved more than 50 hours of sittings during her unhappy summer of 1994.

The near life-size painting, which shows a thoughtful Princess in a green Catherine Walker taffeta skirt and a billowing white chiffon blouse by Tomasz Starzewski, has been temporarily shipped to a Manhattan exhibition from Kensington Palace.

The subject is said to be pleased by the outcome, which shows her with head tilted, gazing sideways. Her sapphire engagement ring is unavoidable. In the background, a faint line suggests a door that could be opened. The painter, the American artist Nelson Shanks, disclosed that the Princess was an occasionally restive sitter who had "the most unforgettable eyes I have ever seen". She talked to him of her personal troubles, as well as music. She "hated disco music and loved classical".

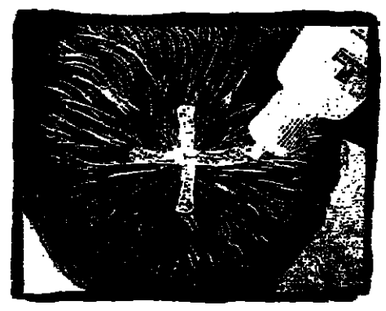
Sittings were held in a studio on Tite Street, Chelsea, during the same period that Mr Shanks was also painting Baroness Thatcher, who "posed like a statue for three hours at a time". When Mr Shanks's infant daughter Annalisa started to cry one morning, Lady Thatcher picked her up and recited *Baa Baa Black Sheep* in a statesmanlike manner. The little girl was quelled instantly. The summer of 1994 also saw a new peak of press speculation about the Princess's personal life, including her relationship with James Hewitt. The portrait is part of an exhibition at the Hirschl & Adler gallery entitled Yanks Paint Brits. Other paintings include George III by Benjamin West and John Lennon by Andy Warhol.



The princess sat in 1994

☐ A landowner defended his reputation yesterday after he was forced to resign from the Queen's Scottish bodyguard, the Royal Company of Archers, for letting Duns Castle to an American TV company to represent Balmoral in a film about the Hewitt affair. Alexander Hay said: "The film is not about the Queen – it is about Princess Diana, on a subject she has admitted is true."

Lord Palmer, a member of the biscuit dynasty, was also forced to resign for letting Manderston House, also in the Borders, represent Kensington Palace and Highgrove.



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Heavyweight tenants sought for rooms in Hampton Court



Henry VIII: tenants may live where he once loved

BY ALAN HAMILTON

HENRY VIII's majestic residence by the Thames at Hampton Court, the largest and grandest royal palace in Britain, could soon be taking in tenants.

The Historic Royal Palaces Agency, which has adopted a far more commercially aggressive approach since taking over the running of the palace from the Department of the Environment five years ago, is considering turning up to 60 of Hampton Court's 1,500 rooms into private residential apartments and letting them on the open market.

Plans to turn some of the hundreds of empty rooms into a discreet hotel have been quietly dropped as inappropriate. But two apartments, including the former quarters of the Mistress of the Puddings near the Tudor kitchens, have already been converted into short-let holiday flats and more may be made available. But there will be no freeholds; as it is a royal palace, no part of Hampton Court can be sold.

More space is becoming available as grace-and-favour residences, of which Hampton Court had 27, gradually become vacant. Only ten grace-and-favour residents, all elderly, remain there.

Robin Evans, the agency's director at Hampton Court, said: "The worst thing you can do with a historic building is to leave it empty, when it will begin to deteriorate quickly. Almost all the historic parts likely to be of interest to visitors are now open to the public but we are still left with hundreds of unused rooms."

Any plan to turn part of Britain's biggest palace into housing would have to be approached with care, Mr Evans acknowledged; there would have to be a suitable mix of holiday flats and permanent accommodation and it was vital that any scheme did not affect the historic atmosphere of the palace as a whole. Potential tenants would be screened for suitability.

Ten years after the disastrous fire that destroyed the Wren apartments built for William III, Hampton Court hardly knows itself. The Wren wing has been meticulously and magnificently restored and its original contents and furnishings recovered from obscure corners of the royal estate for the first time in centuries. Queen Caroline's apartments have been opened; William III's huge Privy Garden has been reconstructed and the Tudor kitchens are on public view.

The last is the least surprising as David Beeton, chief executive of the Historic Royal Palaces Agency — which also runs the Tower of London, Kensington Palace state apartments, the Whitehall Banqueting House and Kew Palace — is a direct descendant of the doyenne of Victorian cookery writers.

Mr Beeton's unashamedly commercial approach is not universally admired or emulated in the heritage business; there are, for example, no period-costumed guides or historic tableaux on the Buckingham Palace tour. He remains unrepentant.

"Since we took over from the civil servants, who at best were intelligent amateurs, we have increased the turnover of the historic palaces from £15 million to £40 million, and reduced their cost to the taxpayer by two thirds. We have to make money from other activities, like catering, functions, events — and now perhaps even property."

The 5,000 visitors to the King's Apartments yesterday could view videos of the Easter Monday fire of 1986 and an exhibition explaining how the £11 million restoration was completed. Tourists are encouraged to take a second look at the seemingly immaculate throne canopy, where they can see splatters of molten lead that dripped there from roofing.

Heart attack blamed for collapse

Man dies trying to save daughter from attackers

BY JOANNA BALE

A MAN aged 60 who collapsed as he tried to rescue his teenage daughter from a roadside brawl died from a heart attack, police said yesterday.

Helen Burge, 17, paid tribute to her father John, who came to the aid of her and a friend when they were attacked outside a pub near their home in Oxford.

Mr Burge, who had a heart bypass operation six years ago, ran to the pub and appealed to the young men and women to stop kicking and punching his daughter. He then collapsed and his last words before lapsing into unconsciousness were for his daughter: "You shouldn't have been out so late."

Police called to the disturbance, just before midnight on Easter Day, tried to revive Mr Burge but he died soon after arriving at John Radcliffe Hospital, where he worked as a laboratory technician.

Miss Burge sobbed yesterday as she spoke of her father, who was also a night porter at St Peter's College, Oxford. "He saved me," she said. "If he had not been there they would have killed me." She had stitches in her lips after the attack and also suffered severe bruising to her head and body.

Miss Burge described the incident: "My friend Joanna and I were out for a walk. We had eaten too much chocolate and we were just going round the block. We were coming back and we heard a knock on the pub window, then two girls came out and said, 'What are you two looking at?', but we hadn't been looking at them.

"We tried to walk away but they pounced on us and dragged my friend to the ground, kicked her in the head and pulled her hair. They hit me and kicked me and kept trying to push me to the ground.

"First of all it was just the two girls, but then a gang of blokes started on us. A cyclist came past and tried to stop them punching me in the face."

Her friend, Joanna Taylor, 18, escaped and ran to Miss Burge's home for help. "She told my dad what was happening. I heard him shouting at them to get off but they continued to punch and kick me. Then he collapsed. He was a lovely man and we can't believe he has gone."

Mr Burge had suffered from a heart condition but made a good recovery after bypass surgery and was said by his family to be "fit and well". His Hungarian-born wife, Terezia, was yesterday comforting Helen and her sister Sarah, 14.

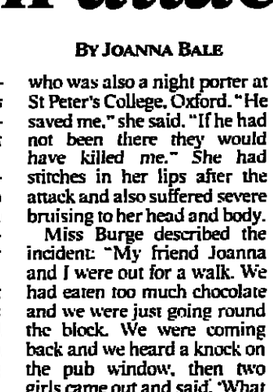
Thames Valley Police are not treating the death as murder. A post-mortem examination found that Mr Burge died of a heart attack brought on by stress.

Superintendent Cressida Dick said: "Mr Burge appeared to have received no assault injuries that would have contributed to his death." But she added: "He died, directly or indirectly, as a result of this incident. Clearly that has to be treated as a suspicious death. We will be sending a report to the Crown Prosecution Service."

Police are trying to trace about 20 people who are thought to have witnessed the brawl. Nigel Rich, landlord of the Fox and Hounds in Abgindon Road, Oxford, said: "There was a gang in here who left at about 11.45pm. They had done nothing wrong and they all left quite happily."

Detective Inspector David McCorkell said: "We are hoping to arrest someone shortly."





Helen Burge and her father John, who had a heart bypass operation six years ago

GUY NEWMAN



Lee Evans in action: "When I miss a chance of ticking a bird I have not seen before, it is soul-destroying"

Bird man drives 90,000 miles a year in search of rarities

BY MICHAEL HORNSBY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

WHILE others went on holiday over the Easter weekend, Lee Evans continued doing what he does almost every other day of the year: tirelessly crossing the country in pursuit of unusual birds.

The 34-year-old former panel designer at Vauxhall Motors is recognised by common consent as Britain's most dedicated "twitcher", a man so obsessed with spotting avian rarities that even fellow addicts think him a bit over the top. "When other twitchers say you are bonkers, you know you really are," he says. "Birding has destroyed any hope of normal social or family life. My marriage went down the pan."

Most days Mr Evans is on the road in his Vauxhall Cavalier soon after 7am, armed with a lunch box and expensive German-made binoculars and telescopes. From his home at Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire, chosen for its proximity to the M25, he reckons to cover up to 90,000 miles a year.

In 1987 he was clocked by a police helicopter doing 142mph near Aviemore in a race to keep a dawn rendezvous with a rare flock of capercaillie. Initially banned from driving for ten years, he persuaded the authorities to reduce the penalty to 18 months.

He calls himself a "birder" rather than a twitcher, a term he reserves for weekend amateurs. The purpose of his existence is to add new birds to his "life list", the total number of different species he has seen in the British Isles. "There are 228 different birds which breed in Britain or are regular winter or summer visitors," he says. "About 350 other species turn up from time to time. Some have been seen only a handful of times in the past 200 years."

Mr Evans runs the UK 400 Club, whose 980 members are the *crème de la crème* of the bird-spotting world. Within this elite is a select group of 455 who have "ticked" 400 or more different species. Mr Evans is tenth, with a score of 488, a remarkable tally given his relative youth. The leader, Ron Johns, who started birding in the 1950s, has 503.

"At this level it becomes harder and harder to find new birds," Mr Evans says. "I add to my list about once every 18 months. When I miss a chance of ticking a bird I have not seen before, it is soul-destroying. I go into a suicidal depression for several days."

Failing to see a bird is known as a "dip". One week last month Mr Evans had a disastrous run of them. He missed a Pacific golden plover in Weymouth, a ring-necked duck in Sussex, a Ross's gull in Plymouth, a Bonaparte's gull in Penzance, a pine bunting in Sheffield, an American widgeon in Lincoln and a black-throated thrush in Norfolk.

He makes a living by writing books on ornithology and publishing a bi-monthly magazine, *Rare Birds*, for which members of the UK 400 Club pay £15 a year. His greatest wish is to see a common nighthawk. "The last three times it appeared I missed it. It was a nightmare."

PR chief resigns after row at Law Society

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER senior official is to leave the Law Society, less than a year into the leadership of Martin Mears, the president elected on a reformist ticket.

The resignation of Sue Stapley, head of the society's public relations since 1989, was announced last Tuesday, just weeks after that of her immediate boss, Andrew Lockley, who had been with the society for 14 years. Her departure came after a well-publicised disagreement with Mr Mears. The society's staff of 700 say that they find it difficult under the new regime ushered in by Mr Mears and his deputy, Robert Sayer, last summer.

Ms Stapley will be the third senior staff member to leave this year: John Hayes, the society's chief executive, leaves next month after serving the society for ten years. Mr Mears has not concealed his view that he would rather Ms Stapley were to leave.

Henry Hodge, a Law Society council member who opposed Mr Mears's election, said: "Their relationship has been extremely fraught. She gave Mr Mears a lot of help in the early stages and the relationship apparently broke down. She has been a very able PR for the society and will be greatly missed by a lot of people."

Ms Stapley, 49, who is taking up a directorship with the communications consultancy Fishburn Hedges on June 17, was publicly criticised by Mr Mears at a recent meeting of the Law Society council. He questioned her motives for circulating a Sunday newspaper expose of his private life with the other press cuttings she sent out about the Law Society as part of her job.

The dispute was further fanned when Mr Lockley gave the press a copy of Ms Stapley's response to Mr Mears's allegations. The issue blew up into a full-scale council debate in the private half of proceedings that day and Mr Mears himself came under fire for his criticisms of Ms Stapley.

In her post as head of public relations she was responsible for various initiatives, including the society's Make a Will Week, National Law Week and the Save Legal Aid campaigns. John Hayes, the outgoing chief executive, said: "Sue Stapley's energy and widsom have been of immense benefit to the society and the profession. Her infectious enthusiasm has changed the Law Society for the good. All of us here wish her the very best for the future."

Ms Stapley said that she had "enjoyed her time at the Law Society immensely" but that it was now time to move on. She hoped to add to the strengths of Fishburn Hedges in campaigning, public affairs and public relations for a variety of clients, from big companies to law and accountancy firms and voluntary-sector bodies.

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Cervical screening test needs further refinement

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

THE NHS cervical screening programme is saving up to 4,000 women from cancer every year but fails to detect it in more than 2,000, according to a study.

An analysis of women screened in 1992 shows that the programme prevented 43 per cent of potential cases of cervical cancer. However, it was also found that one in five cases of early-stage pre-cancer was missed by the test.

The report, published in the *British Journal of Cancer* today, says that, despite adequate screening, some women will still develop cervical cancer. Scientists believe that additions to the screening test will be necessary to prevent these cancers.

Researchers from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund compared the screening histories of 348 women with invasive cancer with 677 healthy women in 24 health authorities. Based on the results, they estimated that the scheme prevented between 1,100 and 3,900 cases of invasive cervical cancer in this country in 1992.

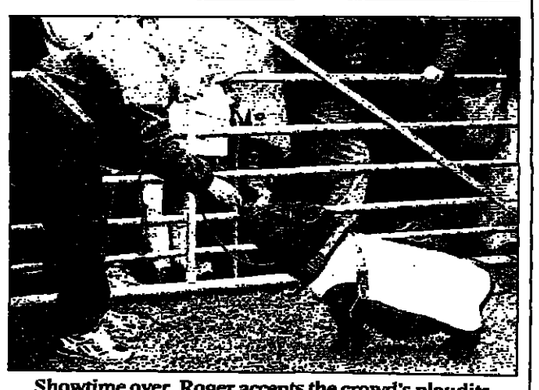
More than 3,000 people are to be questioned by researchers from Glasgow University looking at why some diseases seem to run in some families but not others. The parents of those being studied, who are from the Paisley and Renfrew area, were screened 20 years ago, so comparisons can be drawn. The NHS and the Wellcome Trust are funding the work.

Dr Peter Sasieni, research scientist at the organisation's maths, statistics and epidemiology department, said the number of cancers prevented would have increased since 1992. "The basic screening programme is working well and mortality is falling more rapidly than ever before. We estimate that if it hadn't been for screening, the amount of cervical cancer in 1992 would have been 75 per cent higher."

There are more than 3,500 new cases of cervical cancer each year in women under the age of 70 and the findings suggest that, with extended coverage and tighter follow-up, the current screening programme could prevent a further 1,250 of these.

However, Dr Sasieni said there was a limit to the sensitivity of the test. "With the present approach we cannot say to women that they will not get cervical cancer if they attend for screening regularly. As much as 20 per cent of high-grade lesions may be missed by the test. It is not perfect."

To improve detection rates, Dr Sasieni said that cells collected during screening could be tested for human papilloma virus, the organism that causes genital warts which is also linked with cervical cancer. A test for the virus is being developed but it needs refinement to avoid too many women being recalled for further investigation.



Showtime over, Roger accepts the crowd's plaudits

Pigs provide music at Abigail's party

BRITAIN'S first beauty pot-bellied pigs from Shildon, Co Durham, who won the novelty section after blowing bugles, racing through tunnels and sitting on command.

Their owner, Heather Powles, 42, said: "This is the biggest audience they have had and I had no idea if they would freeze, but they've been amazing. They are clean and intelligent and more responsive than a dog to train."

Funerals go with a swing as deceased do it their way

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

POP songs and theme tunes are increasingly supplementing hymns at funerals, often as a last request of the deceased. The trend is well established in churches as well as crematoriums, where one of the top ten tunes is *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*.

Other family favourites range from Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* to the theme from the Australian soap opera *Home and Away*.

Many clergy feel mourners are helped if the music has a special personal meaning. A survey in one local newspaper showed that almost a third of funeral services now include a pop tune, up from only 2 per cent ten years ago.

Most of the pop songs are included in services for people who die under the age of 50, but the trend is growing at the funerals of older people. A recording of Louis Armstrong's *Wonderful World* was played at the cremation of an 84-year-old woman.

Church organ music is not immune. Ron Bayfield, church organist in Worthing, Sussex, and former editor of the *Organ Club Journal*, said: "I recently played at a funeral of a lady who had been a cinema pianist in the silent movie days. I played her out with the Charleston. Her relatives said afterwards how much they appreciated it. Another lady requested a waltz, the *Tales of the Vienna Woods*, for her mother. At one funeral, a girl who had been in showbusiness had a recording of Terry Jacks's *Seasons in the Sun*."

Britain's most regular funeral requests include Frank Sinatra's *My Way*, Barbara Streisand's *Memories*, John Lennon's *Imagine*, Bette Midler's *Wind Beneath my Wings*, and football team anthems, along with more classical sounds such as Mario Lanza's *I'll Walk With God*, the largo from Dvorak's *New World Symphony* — the theme from the Hovis bread commercial — Bach's *Air on a G-String* and Elgar's *Nimrod*.

Paul Stubbs of the Federation of British Crematorium Authorities said: "We have no policy or guidelines on music. It is all down to the individual moral code of the mourners and whether the granting of a request is likely to cause offence."

Canon John Wikeley, team rector of West Derby, Liverpool, said: "Some of the songs requested are lovely. If music is played that has special meaning for the family, that can only be a good thing."

Maureen Barr, who runs Perry Barr Crematorium in Birmingham, said: "The service is the last shot we have of saying goodbye to our loved ones and we all have our own individual ways of doing that. I would have to seek advice if the lyrics were particularly explicit."

Leading article, page 15

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STILL FROM "SIGN OF THE CROSS", CLAUDETTE COLBERT – PARAMOUNT PICTURES.

FEW PLACES ARE AS *ENJOYABLE* AS A ROVER 400.





Dushyant Patel has been on the Côte d'Azur for seven years; Dorothy Chamaide for 60. The generations rarely meet socially, but when they do friction is almost inevitable. Photographs: Martin Beddall

Arriviste expats threaten to knock old guard for six

■ In the last of a series of reports from the South of France, Bill Frost discovers a growing rift between the Britons who went there to retire and the newcomers who are trying to earn a living

DUSHYANT PATEL, accomplished all-rounder with the Cabrice Cricket Club, is one of the many British expatriots on the Cote d'Azur without a bad word to say about his fellow exiles — until pushed ever so slightly.

Practising a few polished preseason strokes in his back garden beneath the looming mass of the Col de Vence, Mr Patel knocks the old guard beyond the boundary and into the dustbin of history: "They came here to see out the twilight of their years, we younger people came to work and make new lives for ourselves."

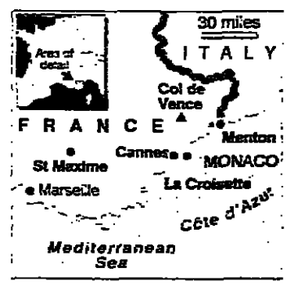
Mr Patel, a property developer who left Virginia Water in stockbroker-belt Surrey for the South of France seven years ago, knows he has been cast in the role of "awful newcomer" by the old guard. He does not give a fig. The factions rarely meet socially, but when they do friction is almost inevitable.

"There has even been trouble at the cricket club between the two camps," he says. "The row started last season over my suggestion that we should register the club properly, as French law requires — a modest proposal, I thought."

However, the idea drove some of the older members quite mad with rage, he says. "They refused to pay their subscriptions and some resigned altogether — quite unheard of and a serious distraction from the main business of playing cricket. The problem is they are little Englanders who came here thinking they could do exactly what they liked and pay no attention to the law or customs of their new country. But at least the row has had the effect of getting rid of the troublemakers," he adds with a wolfish grin.

Strolling back across his patio as darkness falls on the manicured lawn, Mr Patel, 41, observes that the "elderly" Britons on the Cote d'Azur seem to get "awfully charged up" about matters of little importance. He shakes his head more in sadness than in anger when he mentions the latest and most acrimonious upheaval to divide old and new British money from St Maxime to Menton: the Sunny Bank Anglo-American Hospital in Cannes. The hospital, which is funded by charitable donations, has been ministering to distressed expat gentlefolk in the South of France for a century. However, Mr Patel and others of like mind and similar age suggest that the place is no longer viable as a hospital and should instead be run as a retirement home.

"They cast me in the role of villain because I say we should stop carrying out operations there and save what we can. The Cannes site must be worth five million francs [about £645,000]. I see nothing wrong with the idea whatsoever. Yet passions have been roused between the generations to an astonishing level."



Down on the coast at Cannes, in a palatial apartment behind La Croisette, the very mention of Mr Patel's name causes Dorothy Chamaide, MBE, to grip her glittering cutlery a little more tightly. One gets the impression that the lavish lunch has been spoilt and the champagne flute has been filled with vinegar. "To turn Sunny Bank into some sort of retirement home is quite the most odious suggestion that I have ever heard," says Mrs Chamaide, who has been on the Riviera for 60 years. "No, I won't tell you my age — a gentleman would not have asked."

Putting down her knife and fork and leaving her lunch unfinished, she says sadly: "I admit there is less money about and people are less generous. But the hospital must stay. It is a great comfort to those in the community who need free treatment because their savings have dwindled. It is also a great comfort to be surrounded by doctors and nurses who speak English if you are English yourself, elderly and unwell."

Mrs Chamaide, whose walls are decorated with original Picasso sketches and prints — "personal gifts, we knew each other well, such an exciting man" — is a formidable opponent. "I saw off the Vichy French, Mussolini's army and then the Nazis when they took over down here," she says, with the light of battle shining in her eyes.

"These young ones, these newcomers, don't do anything but criticise the older generation and all we stand for. They haven't got the slightest desire to help, even though they could. They just make insensitive suggestions which cause a lot of anger and anxiety. In fact, they simply couldn't care less.

"Sunny Bank is one fight we intend to win, though. As for those who want to close the hospital or turn it into some sort of expensive rest home, let them hop on a plane and go somewhere far away. They certainly don't belong on the Cote d'Azur."

Viscount team bids farewell to pioneer of postwar skies

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the last three Vickers Viscount airliners in regular passenger service is being prepared for a final nostalgic trip from Heathrow, where the first of its type began commercial service more than 40 years ago.

The Viscount is regarded by many as the greatest British commercial airliner, blazing a trail with its four Rolls-Royce Dart turbo-prop engines and opening European air routes to millions of tourists and business travellers.

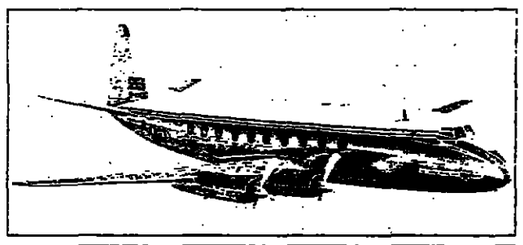
Next week many of those responsible for designing, developing and using the Viscount will take a 45-minute flight before the aircraft's seats are removed to turn it into a freighter. The end of a chapter in aviation history will be marked by Sir George Edwards, who led the Vickers design team immediately after the war, Sir Peter Masefield, chief executive of British European Airways who placed the orders and so launched the Viscount into commercial service in 1953, Jock Bryce, captain of the first prototype flight on July 16, 1948, and Captain Stan Jones, who commanded the aircraft in the London to New Zealand Air Race in 1953. Within weeks the two remaining Viscounts, now owned by British World Airlines, will also become cargo carriers.



Bryce: commanded first prototype flight in 1948

The Viscount was designed by the same team who designed and built the twin-engine Wellington bomber. The big difference, however, was in the engines. The Viscount used gas-turbine power for the first time in passenger service and established just how reliable the power plant could be at a time when pure jets were running into difficulty.

The Viscount was regarded as a breakthrough in commercial aircraft design, being fast, with big oval windows, a comfortable ride and fully pressurised. But although it was far superior to its competitors it did not enter scheduled airline service until April 18, 1953, with a flight from Heathrow to Cyprus. Flying time from London to Paris was only 70 minutes. The aircraft was sold to 60 airlines around the world and at one time BEA had more than 80.





The fully pressurised Vickers Viscount offered new levels of comfort to millions of holidaymakers

Twenty-four Viscounts continued to fly for BEA and later British Airways until the early 1980s before being bought by British Air Ferries, operating from Southend mainly to the Channel Islands. In 1981 BAF won a contract to carry oil industry workers from Aberdeen to Sumburgh in the Shetland Islands, from where they joined helicopters for flights to platforms in the northern North Sea. So far over 1.5 million passengers have been flown on the route and the company, now known as British World Airlines, has had its contract renewed for another five years. The Viscount, however, is considered a bit too venerable to continue for that long and the airline has instead bought two new 70-seat ATR-72s. Each of the French-built turbo-props cost about £10 million, compared with the £500,000 the Viscount cost in 1957.

The three converted Viscounts will join five others now moving freight, mainly at night, between Belfast, Edinburgh and Coventry. They are expected to serve well into the next century. There are believed to be another 11 Viscounts flying in Zaire, Colombia and Indonesia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lost Briton was on roof of hospital

A British tourist reported missing from a hospital in Hong Kong never left the premises and was found on the roof three days later.

Stuart Joy, 40, of Swansea, disappeared two days after being admitted to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital with an apparent anxiety attack, a spokeswoman said yesterday. His wallet and passport remained beside his hospital bed and he was reported as missing to police.

Acid shuts M1

The M1 was closed at junction 34 for more than two hours and people were advised to stay indoors after a cloud of nitric acid gas escaped from an industrial plant in the Blackburn Meadows area of Sheffield. Rail services were also halted before the cloud dispersed.

Divine discovery

A lake discovered 500ft under the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, could save the health authority £1 million in water charges. The underground supply, located by a water diviner, should be enough to meet the hospital's water needs for 30 years.

Care costs change

Pensioners can now keep £10,000 in savings or assets before they have to contribute to the cost of residential care. Those with savings of between £10,000 and £16,000 pay a contribution. Hitherto, most people with savings or assets of over £8,000 have had to meet the entire cost.

Blind targets

Two elderly blind people were robbed as they walked to a friend's home for Easter Sunday lunch. John Butcher, 82, was carrying a white stick and leaning on the arm of his friend Gladys Wainwright when the two young robbers struck in York. Miss Wainwright, 76, lost £100.

Shining example

A policeman who wrote a guide to polishing shoes has been invited to sit on the consulting board of Kiwi, the polish maker. PC James McGowan, 35, of West Yorkshire Police, learnt to bull boots in the Irish Guards. His 32-page guide is to be sold in shoe shops.

Package flight for five survivors

Race to save the snake bitten by tourist boom

BY STEPHEN THORPE AND NICK NUTTALL

A FAST-MOVING snake that could not move fast enough to escape imminent extinction has been airlifted from the West Indies to Britain for rescue. A breeding programme for the harmless Antiguan racer could end a run of misfortune partly caused by tourists who made the same flight in the opposite direction.

Boats of island-hopping trippers have inadvertently increased the rat population on the snake's native islands. Rats bite the snake's tail, which houses its reproductive organs. A small group of survivors has been clinging to life at Great Bird Island, which has up to 20,000 picknicking visitors a year, mostly British. Many reptiles there have been killed in the mistaken belief that they were venomous.

Destruction caused by Hurricane Luis in the Leeward Islands last September worsened the snake's habitat. *Alsophis antiguae* has been placed in the highest category of threat under the World Conservation Union's listing: critical endangered. Now two males and three females — shipped in thermal packaging in the climate-controlled hold of a British Airways jumbo jet — are at Jersey Zoo, where it is hoped they will breed for reintroduction on suitable islands.



The Antiguan racer: fell foul of island picnickers

The rescue scheme has been planned and carried out by Dr Jennifer Daltry and Mark Day of Fauna and Flora International (FFI) with funding from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

They were invited to conduct an on-site assessment at Great Bird Island in October. More than half of the estimated population of 50 had been injured by rats. It was this study which placed the species at the top of the endangered list. Too few of the metre-long snakes remained to simply to translocate to adjacent islands and captive breeding became the only viable option.

Jersey Zoo, founded by the late Gerald Durrell, specialises in breeding rare species. Quentin Bloxan, the senior reptile curator, described the task as "crisis conservation and a major new initiative". The snakes, he said, had settled in well.

Feeding is always a problem but the technique of "odour manipulation" — in this case, rubbing dead mice with the scent of the snake's natural prey, lizard — is working and hopes are high for summer breeding.

Mark Day returns to Antigua next month to further a research, education and ecological restoration programme. As part of this, boat operators are being warned about the dangers of rat reinfestation. Juvenile Racers will be released as soon as possible and other islands colonised as part of a wider marine park programme.

Once common butterfly becomes Britain's rarest

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A ONCE common butterfly has been officially designated as Britain's rarest. The high brown fritillary, which has orange wings with black spots, has suffered a 95 per cent decline since the 1950s.

Dr Martin Warren, of Butterfly Conservation, the wildlife group that carried out the first detailed survey, said yesterday that the species was "once so common that Victorian naturalists hardly noted it — it was almost solid in Kent, Surrey, Sussex and up to the Lake District and the Humber."

The new survey shows that the butterfly is now clinging on in 51 colonies, centred on Exmoor and Dartmoor, the Malvern Hills and the Herefordshire commons with some in the limestone hills around Morecambe Bay, Lancashire.



Falling numbers: the high brown fritillary

The survey, carried out on behalf of English Nature, the Government's wildlife adviser, will strengthen calls for more widespread grants to restore the ancient art of coppicing to woodlands.

Dr Warren said the species, *Argynnis adippe*, needed high temperature in the larval stage, during which it feeds on common dog violets or hairy violets, to survive. Bracken, which is grazed by cattle, offers an ideal habitat. Across most of its former range, the high brown would bask in the sunny glades created by coppicing.

Dr Warren said widespread coppicing would not only benefit the high brown, but a wide range of species including other rare butterflies, the dormouse and insects. "Of the top five threatened butterflies, most are basically woodland species. All have suffered from a change in woodland management," he said.

Dr Warren said there was increasing recognition that coppicing made both economic and environmental sense if given a cash start. Coppiced wood can be used for thatching stays and is superior to plastic substitutes, fencing and charcoal. B&Q are supporting a scheme to use British-grown charcoal for garden barbeques.

Pathologist is cleared by inquiry

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

A CONSULTANT pathologist who was suspended after doubts were raised about his diagnoses of suspected cancers has been quietly reinstated by his hospital after an independent inquiry cleared him. Colleagues of Dr Irvin Lampert, a consultant at Ealing Hospital NHS Trust who was suspended in December 1993, have complained to the Royal College of Pathologists that damaging allegations about Dr Lampert that appeared in the press have never been withdrawn. *The Times* carried a report of his suspension on February 23, 1994.

Dr Lampert remained on full pay for more than a year while the hospital set up an inquiry, which met in January 1995 and immediately cleared him. He returned to work in February, and in September the trust wrote to him apologising for the delay in holding the inquiry and confirming that he had been totally exonerated.

The finding was circulated to the President of the Royal College of Pathologists and other leading members of the profession but was not communicated to the press.

Julian Nettel, chief executive of the trust said: "There was some pressure from colleagues outside the trust that we should write to *The Times*. We felt that would not be appropriate as it would draw attention to his suspension again. We feel we have fulfilled our obligations to the letter and Irvin Lampert has expressed satisfaction with those arrangements.

"I agree it was a long time to organise the inquiry, and we have acknowledged that and apologised. We have worked very hard to get things back on an even keel."

Keith Lockyer, secretary of the Royal College of Pathologists, said: "Ealing NHS Trust made an enormously convoluted job of this inquiry but when the report was finalised it completely exonerated Dr Lampert and confirmed that he is an internationally renowned expert in certain rare diseases.

"All talk of incompetence was totally untrue.

"Unfortunately, the fact that he was exonerated did not get covered. Ealing may have been so embarrassed it did not want to draw attention to it."

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Road rage in bitter borderland

Old fears reborn as Russia seeks Polish 'corridor'



Five years after the destruction of the Berlin Wall ***Roger Boyes****, in Suwalki, looks at renewed competition between East and West*

WOLVES prowl the Augustow forestland in the Suwalki region. Some come over the border from Lithuania or Belorussia; when they are foraging they can cover more than 60 miles a night. In the west, Polish wolves are straying into Germany and, unable to find food, have been ransacking the dustbins.

These are the bitterly cold borderlands, the area where East and West may soon erect their new barricades. Cezary Cieslukowski, the Suwalki Governor, was happy enough to discuss in vague terms the building of a new road with his colleagues in Belorussia, but now the project has taken on a sharp new edge.

The Russians say they want to construct an "extra-territorial" highway through Poland into the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad. The idea is that the Russians could, without Polish customs controls, ferry soldiers, ammunition and supplies into the already heavily militarised coastal area.

The Poles are upset. The last time a foreign leader demanded a corridor was in 1938, when Hitler wanted a passage from Germany to East Prussia. To agree to Russian demands would make Nato entry even more complex: the Russians would be even more determined in their opposition; the Americans would be even more concerned about extending nuclear protection eastwards.

Russia is expected to increase pressure on Poland to withdraw its application for Nato membership during a meeting between President Yeltsin and President Kwasniewski, in his biggest foreign policy test since his election last December.

"We do not want to draw a new European frontier along the Bug river," Mr Kwasniewski said before the delicate talks that begin in Moscow today. "We have friends in the West, in the United States. We would like relations with our closest neighbours, above all Russia, to be just as friendly."

Russia is expecting a less prickly attitude from the former Communist Polish leader than that of Lech Walesa, the former President. However, precisely because of his past, Mr Kwaznicwski will have to reassure his people by adopting a strong line in favour of Nato membership and against the "Suwalki corridor".

The only Polish beneficiary of such a corridor would be the dirt-poor Suwalki region which would gain a new road, along with motels, roadside cafés and petrol stations, but even here, in the remote northeast, there are critics. Local environmentalists say that forests would have to be churned up and the wolves would be driven out.

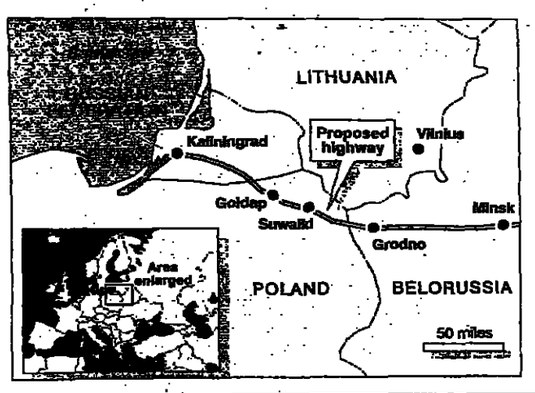
The row over the Suwalki corridor illustrates how this limbo period, while Central Europe waits for entry into Western institutions, is being used to redraw the Eastern part of the continent. The West is exerting a magnetic pull on the Poles, the Czechs, the Hungarians and the Slovenes. Russia is cementing its relations with the "near abroad". For the first time Mr Yeltsin appears to be taking seriously requests by Belorussia for a formal union. On a recent trip to Minsk, he swore a kind of blood brotherhood with the pro-Moscow President Lukashenko. There is also a Russian play being made for Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia: Moscow's secret agents have rarely been so active in these countries.

Geo-politics, a concept that became tarnished after the Nazis used it to justify military expansion, is making a comeback. Without fixed military alliances (apart from Nato), with no ideological divide to give meaning to East and West, all that counts are the old geographical terms of reference: buffer zones, *cordons sanitaires*, heartlands, spheres of influence and the historical terrain.

The Polish Government is naturally not encouraging the project. The corridor is an explosive issue. The lines in Europe are quietly changing to the disadvantage of Russia. Finland, with a long Russian border, has joined the European Union and Austrian membership has shifted "WesternEurope" farther east. Both countries may soon find themselves part of a European "defence identity".

American diplomats in Central Europe look a bit shifty when these issues are raised. Official policy is that all of Europe can in time be inside Nato. Russia, however, is being more hard-nosed. It has its historically rooted anxieties — encirclement, Islam and Germany — and it is forging policy accordingly. Counter-intelligence experts say that the priority task of Russian agents in Western and Central Europe is to undermine or slow down Nato enlargement.

That is what the Suwalki corridor dispute is about. So far, it has not sucked in outside powers. However, there is trouble brewing in the borderlands. Listen carefully in the Augustow forest and you will hear the wolves howl at night — the sound carries for miles, across the frontiers.





Kwasniewski: delicate meeting with Yeltsin

TED NUNN



The statue of the emperor Marcus Aurelius in Rome's Piazza Del Campidoglio. The second-century work has been undergoing repairs in a museum for 15 years

Eternal city runs out of time in build-up to 2000 jubilee

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Vatican yesterday said that grandiose plans for celebrating the millennium in Rome in under four years were in "total disarray" because of delays and lack of funding.

Archbishop Sergio Sebastiani, secretary of the Vatican Committee for the Jubilee, said the Italian Government had promised more than £1 million for millennium projects last September, but the funds had still not been authorised.

He said that even when the decree was passed it would take another six months for the funds to be released, too late for many of the schemes to be completed.

They include restoration of the Colosseum; a new underground line linking the Colosseum and the Vatican, the two most visited sites in Rome; improvements to the motorway from Fiumicino airport to Rome and the ring road around the city; a huge underground car park beneath the Janiculum Hill next to the Vatican; and development of the area around St Peter's Square, with pedestrian precincts and moving pavements. Few of the schemes have begun, apart from motorway widening.

The year 2000 has been designated a Holy Year or jubilee by the Pope. Francesco Rutelli, the energetic Mayor of Rome, has visionary plans for both secular and religious celebrations, which are expected to attract up to 40 million pilgrims and tourists.

Signor Rutelli joined the Vatican in blaming Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, for the delays. "We are on a razor's edge, there is no more time," he said. "We are going to miss our appointment with the year 2000."

Signor Dini admitted there had been "legislative delays", but maintained there was still time in hand. "The jubilee is not at risk," he said.

One millennium project dear to Roman hearts is the restoration of the equestrian statue of the emperor Marcus Aurelius, which for centuries stood on the square designed by Michelangelo on the Capitol Hill. The great second-century bronze statue has been under repair for 15 years, and is on display in the Capitoline Museum.

There were hopes that the statue would be back on its pedestal in front of the Senators' Palace, which houses the Mayor's offices, in time for the jubilee. But the restorers argue that, despite reduced pollution levels, the re-gilded original should be kept in the museum and a copy put in its place on the square. Even the copy, however, is reportedly behind schedule.

Russian military's loyalty to Yeltsin crumbles

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

A GROWING number of senior Russian military officers are supporting a return to power by the Communist Party and could not be counted on to support President Yeltsin in the event of a national crisis.

According to a "confidential Ministry of Defence study" conducted earlier this year, Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist leader, is the most popular political figure among senior officers, while President Yeltsin, who is also Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, ranks sixth.

The report, published in a lengthy article in *Moskovskiye Novosti* newspaper, may help to explain the growing unease in the Kremlin over the behaviour of the military, and in particular the refusal of the armed forces to respect a unilateral ceasefire declared by President Yeltsin in Chechenia. Since the ceasefire order a week ago, Russian forces have continued their fierce spring offensive in the breakaway republic with daily artillery and air bombardments of Chechen villages.

Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen rebel leader and a former Soviet Air Force general, yesterday blamed a "third force" of hardline nationalists and Communists in the military of openly disobeying Mr Yeltsin and prolonging the conflict to discredit him.

"In case of mass disorder or an attempt by the opposition to seize power in the regions or in Moscow, part of the army may take the side of the opposition," wrote Aleksandr Zhilin, the defence editor of *Moskovskiye Novosti*.

But if Mr Yeltsin is unpopular with the military, his wife, Naina, is doing her best to brighten his image. She told Russia's NTV independent television that her husband was a stickler for tidiness. "He notices everything when he comes home despite his tiredness," said Naina, 63. "If something is out of place, he says 'disorder again'."



Mrs Yeltsin: husband 'a stickler for tidiness'

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lanka security powers widened

Colombo: President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga yesterday extended emergency rule across Sri Lanka, triggering angry reactions from the opposition which condemned the move as a bid to postpone crucial local elections.

Mr Kumaratunga stunned some of her own Cabinet ministers by imposing the tough emergency regulations with retrospective effect from Thursday, curtailing civil liberties and giving wide powers to security forces to detain suspects.

The state of emergency now extends across the entire country. Earlier it was restricted to the embattled northeast regions and a few towns, including the capital Colombo, which are vulnerable to attacks by the separatist Tamil Tigers. *(AFP)*

Burma pledge

Rangoon: The head of Burma's military Government and armed forces, General Than Shwe, said the military did not crave power and should not attempt to control the state permanently. *(AFP)*

Kashmir call

Jammu: Thousands of Kashmir Hindus who fled a Muslim uprising in 1990 are demanding their own homeland in the Kashmir Valley. They want to call it Panun (Our Own) Kashmir.

Colombian toll

Bogotá: Twelve people died in bombings, ambushes and armed clashes that coincided with a nationwide two-day strike called by Colombia's three rebel movements, the army said. *(AFP)*

Algerian ban

Algeria's two armed Islamic groups have been barred from President Zeroual's top-level consultations with political parties over the next fortnight, as he seeks a solution to continuing violence.

Terror defence

Washington: The Oklahoma City bomb suspect, Timothy McVeigh, is due in a Denver court to request classified information about terrorist groups and nationalists in Northern Ireland and Britain.

Pray television

Peking: Hoping to draw more tourists to its 1,000-year-old Buddhist temple in Fujian province, Yongguan monastery has paid 200,000 yuan (£16,000) to advertise on a local television network. *(AP)*

Dijon jail riot blamed on guard shortage

BY ADAM SAGE

A FIERCE debate on prison conditions was under way in France yesterday after inmates rioted at a jail in Dijon, causing hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage.

Unions said overcrowding and a shortage of staff were reponsible for the violence, which lasted for six hours on Sunday night.

The 300 inmates overpowered guards, climbed on the prison roof and set fire to their cells before they were brought under control by gendarmes armed with rifles and teargas. Huge clouds of smoke billowed from the east wing of the prison as police stormed the upper floors, working their way downwards to flush out rioters who took refuge on the ground floor. Five inmates, a guard and a gendarme were injured in the incident.

Yesterday unions denounced conditions at the 19th-century jail, which was built for 169 prisoners. "This mutiny is not surprising," said Frédéric Grandcolas, leader of the Autonomous Federal Penitentiary Union. "There were only 11 guards working when the violence erupted. In total, there are only 80 guards to look after 340 prisoners."

Other unions said the Government had delayed vital renovation work at the prison to save money. However, the authorities in Dijon insisted that the conditions at the jail were "good".

Yesterday the jail was closed and inmates were transferred to other regional prisons.

Yugoslavia restores ties with Macedonia

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE prospects of long-term peace in the Balkans improved yesterday when Yugoslavia and its former republic of Macedonia signed a treaty to normalise relations. The move is expected to lead to a restoration of full diplomatic ties between European Union countries and Yugoslavia, which was ostracised for its role in the Bosnian war.

By the treaty the remnant of Yugoslavia — consisting only of Serbia and Montenegro — has abandoned all territorial claims on Macedonia, its southern neighbour, the only republic to secede peacefully from the Yugoslav federation.

The agreement was signed by Milan Milutinovic, the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, and his Macedonian counterpart, Ljubomir Frckovski. Britain welcomed the accord as "a step forward". Ostracism of Yugoslavia began to relax after President Milosevic of Serbia co-signed the Dayton treaty last year.

Yesterday's accord refers to Macedonia as the Republic of Macedonia — a key concession for the Macedonians and one which will infuriate the Greeks. Greece says Macedonia has claims to Greece's northern province of the same name. Under American pressure, Greece last year dropped a trade embargo against its northern neighbor while Macedonia abandoned state symbols the Greeks insisted were theirs. But the two sides have failed to agree on a name for the former Yugoslav republic.

Police lick rare French stamp fraud

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

THE world of French stamp collecting has been thrown into turmoil by discovery of an elaborate fraud that may have cost hundreds of people their savings.

In a country wearily used to the spread of corruption, philately was seen as a haven of integrity, often used as a safe, tax-free investment. But since two leading philatelists, Gérard Lhéritier and Sako Khatchikian, were charged with defrauding their many customers, the mood has changed sharply.

The two men have been accused of persuading their victims to hand over an estimated several hundred million francs for largely worthless stamps. Using false catalogues, M Khatchikian, 64, and M Lhéritier, 47, allegedly convinced often elderly investors that they were buying rare works whose value could only increase.

M Lhéritier's lawyer, Jean-Marc Szepetowski, vigorously denied the allegations. "My client has nothing to reproach himself for. He has committed no crime."

The lawyer said the alleged fraud was believed to have been mounted by salesmen working for Valeur Patrimoine et Valeur Philatélique (Inheritance Value, Philately Value) but acting on their own initiative and without M Lhéritier's knowledge. M Khatchikian also denies the charges.

Up to 600 people invested in M Lhéritier's company, Valeur Patrimoine et Valeur Philatélique. According to Jean-Pierre Murciano, the investigating judge, the investors were deceived by a complex scam.

For instance, workers at the Dordogne company which was given a contract to print limited edition stamps for Monaco appear to have run off extra copies that were bought by M Khatchikian for as little as Fr5 (80p). He then passed them to M Lhéritier, who sold them for up to Fr1,000 each.

The scandal could escalate further. Influential businessmen and politicians, particularly on the corruption-ridden French Riviera, are rumoured to have been involved as well, according to the national press.

Alfred Artini, a pensioner from Cagnes-sur-Mer, southern France, was a classic victim. Approached by one of M Lhéritier's employees, he claims he was offered 50 "limited edition" stamps from Monaco as well as two allegedly rare French stamps "saved from destruction". After being assured of an annual increase in value of at least 20 per cent, M Artini handed over Fr300,000.

He became suspicious when the salesman later refused to return his calls. Taking his collection to an independent expert in Nice, M Artini was informed that it was worth at most Fr25,000.

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Shame of UN debt brings flood of American cheques

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE failure of the world's one remaining superpower to pay its billion-dollar debt to the United Nations has sparked a citizens' revolt across America.

Hundreds of cheques are arriving at UN headquarters in New York from Americans who want to pay their share of Washington's unpaid UN dues.

The "Pay Our UN Debt" campaign was dreamed up by John Whitehead, a former Under-Secretary of State in the Reagan Administration and now head of the United Nations Association of the United States.

"I was so discouraged that the US Congress would not pay our dues to the United Nations, and so embarrassed by the fact that this treaty obligation was not being paid," he said. "I hated to see my country welch on a treaty commitment, that I wondered what I could do about it to make me feel better."

Dividing Washington's UN debt by the total number of US citizens, Mr Whitehead calculated that the United States owed $4.40 (£2.85) per capita, about the price of a sandwich, and promptly sent off his contribution to UN headquarters.

His gesture attracted enough publicity to set the ball rolling. Only two cheques arrived at the UN in September, three in October and five in November. But in December the monthly total leapt to 55; in January to 93; in February to 200; and in March to 308.

So far, the UN has received 666 cheques with contributions from 1,421 people, a total of $8,587.84.

Despite the prevailing isolationism in American politics, many of the letters thank the UN for helping to keep peace since the Second World War. Some, however, are more terse. One read simply: "One person, three dogs, $17.60 UN dues."

Cheques have arrived from 41 states. In the Connecticut town of New Canaan, more than 200 residents have mailed their contributions.

"This is a token, to be sure, but we are dismayed by the refusal of this great nation to meet its treaty obligations," said Hudson Stoddard, who co-ordinates the New Canaan campaign.

Washington's failure to pay its UN dues infuriates nations such as Britain, which pays on time and is still owed some $150 million by the UN for providing peacekeepers for Bosnia.

Madeleine Albright, Washington's UN ambassador, has proposed a "grand bargain" with the Republican-controlled Congress that would exchange UN reform for an American promise to pay off its debts over the next five years.

For legal reasons, however, the UN cannot use individual Americans' contributions to pay off the US debt unless Washington agrees. The US mission to the United Nations says it is reviewing the problem.

In desperation, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, went over the heads of the US Administration yesterday to appeal to the American public directly for the their country to pay its UN dues.

"The United Nations are on the brink of financial disaster," Dr Boutros Ghali wrote in *The New York Times*. "Americans need to know what's going on, because their country took the lead in creating the organisation, and its delinquency in paying arrears is threatening it."



Boutros Ghali: appeal to the US public

Russian seized in US with 'body part' sacks

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SUSPECTED Russian mafia member was found emptying a sack of human remains into a river outside New York by two policemen on patrol.

Eight more bags containing body parts were found in the boot of a nearby car. In the bag he was holding the man had two human scalps and other items.

FBI agents ordered a temporary news blackout, suspecting that the incident may be linked to the notorious Russian gang that operates in and around New York. The suspect was throwing severed pieces of two human bodies into the Passaic river in East Rutherford, New Jersey, on Easter Day and police frogmen set about retrieving what they could from the water.

Another theory doing the rounds among local people was that the man was part of a former *ménage à trois*, but police would not comment on this rumour.

Police said the man, who speaks Russian and very little English, had been arrested.

The Russian underworld in New York is believed to have control over much of the city's oil distribution business, as well as more customary criminal enterprises such as protection and vice. A recent wave of disappearances and violence has been connected to the coming trial of Vyacheslav Ivankov, the alleged "Godfather" of the Russian mafia, who will go on trial this month on $3.5 million (£2.3 million) extortion charges.



A 70-year-old Hugh Hefner relaxes with a copy of his first *Playboy* magazine featuring Marilyn Monroe

Children are Hefner playmates at 70

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN LOS ANGELES

WEARING black satin pyjamas and a red smoking jacket, Hugh Hefner strolled past a child's toy and a picture of his wife in the nude before sitting down in his mansion to talk about old age.

The hedonist who founded *Playboy* magazine more than 40 years ago turns 70 today. "I've had a third act," he said. "F. Scott Fitzgerald said there are no second acts in American lives and I've got Act 3 here and I'm very fortunate for it. I feel wonderful."

With two young sons at his feet and his 33-year-old wife by his side, Mr Hefner looks more like a man in his 40s. Seventy is the reality, but he does not see himself as approaching the end of his extraordinary life: "My mother is 100. We have very good genes." His birthday will be a subdued affair, "a little cadre of friends and family," he said.

The flamboyant symbol of sexual indulgence has toned down his act. Wild parties have been replaced by children roaming the grounds of his Holmby Hills estate in Los Angeles, their toys scattered about and giant road signs warning guests: "Children at play".

And his ideal evening these days? "The weekends are spent with friends and family, having a buffet, good conversation and watching a classic film."

It was in 1953 that he fired some of the first shots of the sexual revolution when he founded *Playboy*, featuring a nude Marilyn Monroe. There were parallels in their lives and she, too, would have been 70 this year. "In both cases, the dreams were fed in our childhood by movies. I think sex and nudity had a similar kind of liberating meaning for both of us," said Mr Hefner, who has purchased a crypt for himself and his wife Kimberley — the 1989 Playmate of the Year — adjacent to Monroe's.

He is now focused on the next century, particularly electronic communication. Driving Mr Hefner these days is the Internet. "We're extremely popular on the Internet and are going to be launching a pay site next spring or early summer," he said. "We are also launching a playmate fan club in which you can get information, download images and communicate with playmates from all through the decades."

Perhaps surprisingly, the man who has fought for First Amendment press freedoms for 43 years believes parents should have a V-chip to block certain television programmes or Internet features from children.

"Children are often used as the rationale or excuse for censorship. It's a phoney claim because this society isn't made for children. It is made for adults and they should keep certain things out of reach of children," he said.

And even though his sons — four-year-old Cooper Bradford and Marston Glenn, who will be six on his father's birthday — are taking computer classes, Mr Hefner isn't worried about them encountering sex on the Internet. "It's one of the curious things about our society: we worry about the wrong things. There is little or nothing in the sexual arena that is really going to hurt people."

US courts uphold right to assisted suicide

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE right of terminally ill Americans to commit suicide with the help of a doctor has been upheld by two federal appeal courts.

The landmark rulings on the East and West Coasts have brought a controversy that has long been simmering to the forefront. A national debate is emerging on the medical, legal and theological implications.

The issue is almost certain to go to the Supreme Court where the justices will be asked to decide if the dying have a constitutional right to ask a doctor for assistance in ending their lives.

The American Medical Association has decided to review its objections. Its task force on quality care says assisted suicide is incompatible with a doctor's role as a healer. Members worry, however, that their opposition will be seen as blind adherence to medieval values.

Doctors describe the quandary as the "immortality ethic" that is becoming more urgent as an ageing society fears that advanced medical technology could prolong suffering.

Supporters say the battle is over the civil rights of the terminally ill, while opponents warn of a slippery slope towards eradicating the inconveniently sick and elderly. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops says that nobody has the right to make a personal choice about death.

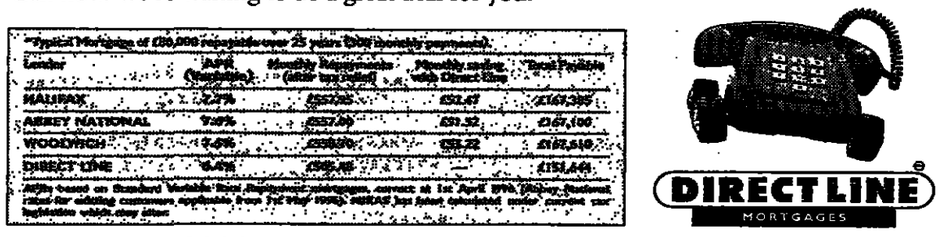
The federal appeal court in San Francisco voted 8-3 to annul a law barring assisted suicide that dated back 140 years in Washington state. The court said that competent adults have a constitutional right to seek help in choosing "a dignified and humane death rather than being reduced to a child-like state of helplessness".

The ruling was followed by a similar finding in New York. The judges said it made no sense that doctors could pull the plug on life-support systems at a patient's request, but were not allowed to prescribe lethal doses of drugs for those who wanted them.

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Brando's outburst against Jews provokes threat from militants

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

MARLON BRANDO may not have performed a memorable role in years, but he has lost none of his talent for controversy.

In a rare television interview the 72-year-old actor immortalised in *The Godfather* launched a bitter attack on Jews in Hollywood, accusing them of exploiting ethnic stereotypes in films. One Jewish group promptly vowed to make the rest of Mr Brando's life "a living hell". Appearing on *Larry King Live*, the actor told Mr King (who is Jewish) that Jewish studio executives should show greater sensitivity toward other ethnic groups which have suffered the effects of racism. "We have seen the nigger [in films], we have seen the greaseball, we have seen the Chink, the slit-eyed dangerous Jap . . . but we never saw the kike." Mr Brando said, using a slang term for Jew, generally considered as offensive as the other racial labels in his tirade. When it came to depicting Jews in film, he added, "that's where you draw the wagons round". The militant Jewish Defence League swiftly released an open letter addressed to "the Godfather of Hate" and accusing the legendary performer of slandering with "anti-Semitic vulgarities" the industry that had supported him.

> "We have seen niggers [in films] but we never saw the kike"

Yesterday Army Archerd of *Daily Variety*, wrote that film industry leaders including many who considered themselves Mr Brando's friends had "deplored" his use of the word "kike". Mr Archerd, who has mounted a one-man campaign against the use of the same word by the singer Michael Jackson in a song from his latest album, also tackled the actor's declaration that Hollywood was "run by Jews" and "owned by Jews". This would come as news, he pointed out, to Rupert Murdoch of 20th Century Fox, Frank Mancuso of MGM/United Artists, and others who own or run studios but are not Jewish.

This is not Mr Brando's first unpopular gesture on behalf of ethnic minorities. He refused to accept his second Oscar (for the role of Don Corleone in *The Godfather* in 1972), sending instead an actress dressed as an Apache with a prepared speech attacking Hollywood's depiction of American Indians in film.



Veteran actor Marlon Brando and his son Christian

Ostracised by many in an industry he professes to loathe, Mr Brando has seen his career languish and his waistline balloon since his last great role in *Last Tango In Paris*. Depressed over the suicide a year ago of his daughter, Cheyenne, he now weighs more than 300lb and is endangering his life by overeating, according to his doctors. His only recent consolation was the release from jail earlier this year of his son Christian after serving a five-year sentence for the manslaughter in 1990 of Dag Drollet, Cheyenne's lover.

Mr Brando still inspires tremendous loyalty from friends, however, and conspicuous fawning from would-be friends. Since Friday's outburst, one of Mr Brando's staunchest defenders has been his Jewish friend and agent, Jay Kanter. "If the Jewish Defence League is looking to find an anti-Semite in Marlon," Mr Kanter said at the weekend, "they've got the wrong guy. Marlon has spoken to me for hours about his fondness for the Jewish people."

Relaxed Dole slows holiday pace

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

IF BOB DOLE wins the race for the White House in November the United States will be deprived of the glorious annual spectacle of its president at play.

President Clinton plays golf, goes rafting, rides and dines with the glitterati when on vacation in the Rockies or at Martha's Vineyard.

In a single day at his holiday home in Maine, President Bush would jog, career round an 18-hole golf course in two hours flat, blast up the coast in his speedboat, and wind down with a game of tennis or horseshoes.

Even President Reagan rode and chopped wood at his California ranch to show how vigorous he was.

Mr Dole has no intention of continuing the fine tradition of showmanship, however. During an 11-day Easter break in Florida that ends today, the Republicans' 72-year-old presidential nominee has done absolutely nothing to entertain the nation save pose for a singularly unflattering photograph of himself talking into a telephone from his deckchair. In place of his customary dark suit he wore swimming shorts, a baseball cap and a plain white T-shirt that revealed a surprisingly ample paunch.

Mr Dole's war wounds do limit his activities, but he spurned the chance to dispel concern about his age. A typical day consisted of a walk up the beach with his wife, a brief stint on a treadmill, a post-prandial nap, sunbathing, an early dinner and a video.

Nor did Mr Dole use his holiday to dispel the notion that he is a consummate Washington insider with no life outside politics. His reading matter consisted of biographies of Washington and Lincoln.

The Doles were staying at the condominium in Bal Harbour, just north of Miami Beach, that they bought for a low price in 1982 from one of the Senate leader's biggest campaign contributors. The building's other occupants include Howard Baker, an earlier Senate leader, Robert Strauss, the former US Ambassador to Moscow, and David Brinkley, a veteran Washington journalist. There is even a picture of the White House and Capitol in the lobby.

The New York Times rather unkindly noted: "There are on any given day by the pool more people with canes or in wheelchairs than children."

US courts uphold right to assisted suicide

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ainst Jews militants



iday pace

Christianity blossoms where Red Guards marched

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN WENZHOU

THE sound of voices singing *Jin Zhao Ji Du Zan Fu Sheng* ("Christ the Lord Is Risen Today") echoed yesterday around the winding old streets of Wenzhou, where a religious revival appears to be taking place in a city that saw some of the worst violence of China's Cultural Revolution.

A congregation of hundreds, the majority of them elderly, attended Easter Service at the Xi Cheng Protestant church, founded by a British missionary in 1898. The church reopened in the late 1980s, having been badly damaged by Red Guards during the Cultural Revolution, a period people here recall with revulsion.

But in this city of seven million, there are now about 700,000 practising Christians, said the Rev Wu Sheng Li. His words seem borne out by Wenzhou's taxi drivers, some of whom proselytise for numerous new churches here, even inviting fares to attend services.

"Despite the Red Guards," said Mr Wu, "the spirit of religion was kept alive by believers. Forbidden church services here, they moved to rural areas. When pursued there, they went into the high mountains to worship." Today Communist Party members quietly come to church, locals say.

Now Wenzhou is settling down after the nervousness of last month when China staged war-games designed to influence Taiwanese presidential elections, when locals say they saw hundreds of military vehicles heading south to neighbouring Fujian province opposite the breakaway territory. "We don't want war, because we had enough chaos during the Cultural Revolution," said one 68-year-old man attending church service, who repeated the party line: "We hope Lee Teng-hui [the Taiwanese President] will not try to split Taiwan from the motherland, then we can have peace."

Wenzhou, which became a British treaty port in 1877, is a trend-setter. It pioneered small-scale capitalism in the early 1980s while the rest of China was still largely gripped by socialist planning. During the Cultural Revolution, Red Guard and peasant militias fought it out with guns, and hundreds died.

But nowadays Wenzhou has a burgeoning wealthy class indulging in conspicuous consumerism and busy night streets lit by dazzling neon signs. The rich have posh cars and cellular phones are a must, said Jin Hang Bin, a young businessman.

But there is a vast underclass too, eking out a living by such occupations as moving huge concrete blocks on carts — father pulling, mother pushing, the single child adding his or her weight. "Material civilisation is valued more highly now than spiritual civilisation," said Mr Wu. But while there are extremes of rich and poor, there are chances for upward mobility. State-controlled firms represent less than 10 per cent of Wenzhou's economy, compared with 45 per cent nationwide, and Wenzhou has thousands of family businesses making shoes, dresses and household goods in the cobbled old area which has not yet succumbed to high-rise fever.

But perhaps the girls of Wenzhou are its most striking feature. Dressed in the height of fashion, including miniskirts, they make Shanghai look old-fashioned. There is even a King's Road, with a series of fashion boutiques patronised by chic young women with money to spend.

"The girls in Wenzhou are smarter than those in Taiwan who these days just wear jeans or any old thing," said Mrs Li Wenhua, 67, a Taiwanese visitor who, unmoved by the recent military exercises, had returned to sweep and tend the graves of family ancestors.

Taipei: Liang Su-yung, an adviser to President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan, said yesterday that he will visit China next week in a private capacity. Mr Liang, 75, said he would give a speech on the reunification of Taiwan and China at Dongbei University. (AFP)

Letters, Page 15

Liberia peace collapses as thousands seek refuge

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

FIGHTING in Liberia between government troops and supporters of a deposed warlord was believed to be spreading yesterday, while tens of thousands of people sought refuge in diplomatic compounds in the capital, Monrovia.

The airport remained closed as the West African country suffered its worst violence in three years. Tens of thousands of people have fled the coastal capital and up to 15,000 were given refuge at the American residential compound in Monrovia. More refugees were fleeing to the Ivory Coast to escape fighting around Zwedru, home town of Samuel Doe, the country's late leader.

In Washington, Mike McCurry, the White House Press Secretary, called the trouble "a direct threat" to peace in the country. "We are very concerned with the unconscionable use of force in Liberia and the fighting in Monrovia," he said.

Kallu Kalumiya, of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, whose office is next door to the American compound in Monrovia, said by telephone: "It is extremely tense and violent. I don't think there is any building which is safe here. There seems to be no law and order."

Dr Kalumiya, who was sheltering on the floor of the UNHCR offices, said: "Today will probably be a decisive day, though it would appear that the police, supported by troops loyal to the Government, are in the ascendant. It is real pandemonium."

Fighting in the country, which was founded by freed American slaves in 1847, erupted on Saturday when government troops tried to force Roosevelt Johnson, the rebel leader, out of his home in the eastern suburb of Sinkor. General Johnson, who was recently dismissed as Minister of Rural Development, is wanted on murder charges after clashes killed several people in the capital last week.

Government troops overran his compound on Sunday, but he escaped and is rumoured to have joined hundreds of supporters who have taken over one of the city's main army barracks. Soldiers of Ecomog, the African peacekeeping army in Liberia, have stayed out of the fighting, to the dismay of civilians.

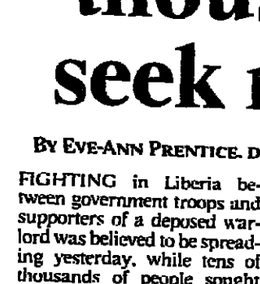
Sydney Sims, a spokesman at the US Embassy, said an American military team from Europe was due in the capital later yesterday to determine whether 470 Americans should be evacuated.

The Egyptian Ambassador and other diplomats were being sheltered at the US Embassy. Some United Nations offices, including those of the World Health Organisation and the UN Observer Mission, have been looted.

It was not known whether any Britons were affected, but the Foreign Office in London repeated long-standing advice not to travel to the country.

A peace accord signed in August 1995 was to have cleared the way for elections this year, but has collapsed like at least a dozen before it. General Johnson joined the Government which took power after the signing of the accord, but was dismissed because of alleged involvement in ceasefire violations.

The war has killed more than 150,000 people and left more than half of the country's 2.3 million people homeless.





A South Korean soldier takes aim into the demilitarised zone where North Korean forces have been sent three times in recent days, raising tension in the border area

Seoul 'to shoot intruders'

FROM REUTER IN SEOUL

THE South Korean Army will shoot any North Korean troops crossing the border in the demilitarised zone, the domestic Yonhap news agency said yesterday.

North Koreans have in the past been warned first when crossing the border and given a chance to retreat before being shot at. South Korean Navy and Air Force officers were also instructed to deal sternly with any provocation by North Koreans, who have sent troops into the demilitarised zone on three occasions in recent days, the latest being on Sunday, raising tensions in the border area.

The incursions into the sensitive region are a dramatic signal of Pyongyang's intention to completely ignore a truce agreement that ended the 1950-53 Korean War.

Yesterday North Korea broke a nearly two-day silence over the tension, again blaming the crisis on Seoul and adding "bellicose quarters of the United States" to its list of trouble-makers.

A commentary in *Rodong Sinmun*, the Communist Party newspaper, said South Korea faced an "irrevocable disaster" if it ignored Pyongyang's warning against making war preparations to invade North Korea.

Analysts in Seoul and Tokyo said North Korea's almost theatrical incursion into Panmunjom at night appeared to be more diplomatic than military and aimed at pressing Washington to agree to military talks with Pyongyang. North Korea has long wanted to wash its hands of the armistice agreement and to sign a peace treaty with Washington.

Minister defends Nkomo's racial outburst

FROM MICHAEL HARTNACK IN HARARE

ZIMBABWE'S Health Minister, Timothy Stamps, yesterday attempted to limit the damage to race relations after an emotional diatribe against whites delivered by Joshua Nkomo, the Vice-President.

Speaking at the graveside of his son Thuthani, 41, the man called "the Father of African nationalism in Rhodesia" blamed whites for Thuthani's death last week from Aids-related respiratory failure.

In the latest in a series of attacks on Zimbabwe's 70,000 remaining whites, Mr Nkomo said they had deliberately introduced the Aids virus with the aim of wiping out the 11.2 million black population and taking their land and wealth.

"Unfortunately it backfired because they, too, are dying of it, but still they have knowledge of its origins and how it can be cured, but they just do not want to share that knowledge," Mr Nkomo, 79, said.

Dr Stamps, who emigrated to what was then white-ruled Rhodesia from Wales in 1969 and joined Mr Mugabe's party soon after independence in 1980, yesterday blamed Mr Nkomo's outburst on prominence given by the local media to Wolff Geisler, a visiting German author who claims Aids that is "a plot against dark-skinned people" invented by Western scientists.

The epidemic, now reported to affect more than 10 per cent of the population and to claim at least 300 lives a week, was denied initially by Dr Stamps's predecessor, Herbert Ushewokunze, who died of an Aids-related illness earlier this year.

Dr Stamps said that Mr Nkomo's complaint of lack of help from whites was partially justified by French and American scientists' failure to notify Africa promptly when the virus was first identified.

☐ **Fishing ban:** The Government yesterday banned all commercial fishing and recreational activities at Lake Chivero, Harare's main water source, where pollution has killed thousands of fish. *(AFP)*

Peking scorns state of Britain

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

PEKING chose yesterday's Easter holiday as the perfect opportunity to remind the people of Hong Kong how fortunate they were to be ridding themselves of degenerate British rule.

An editorial in the staunchly pro-China *Wen Wei Po* told readers that Britain had the worst human rights record in Europe, that its teenagers work in sweatshops and unemployed families "eat potatoes six days a week and can afford steak only once a week".

The attack rounded off a week of propaganda from China, alternately wooing Hong Kong with a soothing advertising campaign for co-operation and then peppering some of its "information" channels with vintage invective. The *Ta Kung Pao*, a sister paper to the *Wen Wei Po*, accused Britain of conspiring with Hong Kong's Democratic Party to extend colonial rule.

Last weekend the territory voted with its feet on Peking's latest outbursts: 150,000 ethnic Chinese joining a mile-long queue for British passports. This weekend the editorial and a call from China for Hong Kong's children to rediscover "patriotism" and throw off the colonial yoke has sparked further mass dissent.

Wang Fengchao, deputy director of Peking's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, told schools they must remind young people "of their true national identity." But Au Pak-kuen, vice president of the Hong Kong teachers' union, responded: "Letting our kids know only the things the rulers would like them to know is indoctrination — not education."

Many teachers, businessmen and civil servants speak of a desire to leave for Canada or Australia. "Migration is the best protection against Communists," said 23-year-old trader Simon Li.

Envoy charged with child sex

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A SENIOR Australian diplomat who has been charged with sex offences against children overseas, is to appear in a Canberra court this month, police confirmed yesterday.

John Holloway, a former Ambassador to Cambodia, faces charges under the Child Sex Tourism Act, which was introduced in 1994 to protect children outside Australia. The prosecution will be only the second of its kind.

A spokesman for Australia's federal police confirmed that the diplomat had been charged by summons served on his lawyers but refused to elaborate on the nature or number of charges. Conviction under the new law carries a maximum jail term of 17 years. Mr Holloway, who has strongly denied accusations of paedophilia, is scheduled to appear in court on April 30.

Confirmation of the child sex proceedings against him comes at a time of increasing concern over allegations of widespread paedophilia made during the current Wood royal commission into police corruption in New South Wales. The hearing has been told of a paedophile ring in Sydney in which rich businessmen who took advantage of under-age youths were protected by corrupt police officers.

☐ **San Antonio, Texas:** A self-professed "child-molesting demon" who threatened to kill his next victims was released from prison yesterday after agreeing to what officials called "unprecedented" parole restrictions.

Larry Don McQuay, who has asked to be castrated in the hope that it would stop his urge to molest, is to live in a halfway house here. Dan Morales, the Texas Attorney-General, said the state may allow him to be castrated after his release if he continues to request it. *(AP)*

Black photographer cashes in on negative exposure

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

WHEN Baroness Thatcher arrived in Cape Town a few days ago for a low-key Easter break with her son Mark she came face to face with a new growth industry — South Africa's paparazzi.

Driven by the entrepreneurial zest the former British Prime Minister so fervently endorses, the business shows great financial promise. The arrival in Cape Town of Earl Spencer, the brother of the Princess of Wales, close on the heels of Mark Thatcher and a bevy of international stars, has brought celebrity fever to the country.

The most prominent figure in the growing posse of pictorial fortune-seekers is Fanie Jason, 42, a black father of two whose guile matches that of more seasoned European and American paparazzi professionals. After years subsisting on the breadline recording township violence, Mr Jason has found chasing Cape Town's rich and famous pays beyond his wildest dreams. Last month alone he pulled in about 30,000 rands (£6,000).

He says his skin colour and patience are the keys to his success. When Earl Spencer's house recently underwent renovation Mr Jason slipped into overalls and entered the premises disguised as a workman.

"Spencer suddenly turned around as I was about to take a picture of him so I dropped my camera and picked up some bricks," Mr Jason said. "I was worried that he may have spotted me but when I called out 'hello baas' [boss] in a subservient manner he smiled and walked away."

The photographer showed his deftness when Andrew Parker Bowles, ex-husband of Camilla, recently spent his honeymoon in South Africa. He told the hotel receptionist to inform Mr Parker Bowles that his "friend" Fanie Jason was here to speak to him.

"Once he was on line I took the phone from the receptionist and he protested that he did not want any publicity. I started waffling about how I worked for a black newspaper and that black people in South Africa were very interested in his visit. I heard him call across the room to his wife 'Darling it's the black press, I think we should do this one'."

Within minutes he had them perched on a bench in the hotel garden and hours later their photos were splashed across British and South African newspapers.

"It is the other side of the struggle. The game is the same, it's just the players that have changed," he says. "Compared to the apartheid days playing hide and seek is easy. It pays to be black and I intend to exploit that."



Jason: "The game is the same, but the players have changed"

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CHOICE 1

An apocalyptic 20th-century setting for Verdi's *Nabucco* at Covent Garden

VENUE: Tonight at the Royal Opera House



CHOICE 2

Yehudi Menuhin kicks off the Warsaw Sinfonia's British tour

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3

Felicity Kendal *stars* in Feydeau's classic farce, *Emily Needs Attention*

VENUE: Tonight at the Alhambra, Bradford



MUSIC

Mezzo with a message: why Anne Sofie von Otter wants everyone to love the songs of Sweden



TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

NABUCCO Verdi's early masterpiece returns to Covent Garden with Tim Albery's production, as controversial in its way as the Richard Jones's *Ring*. A provocative and stimulating evening, with Russian wunderkind Vladimir Jurowski in the pit and Alexandru Agache, Nina Rautio and Samuel Ramey among the cast.
Royal Opera House, Bow Street, WC2 (0171-304 4000) Tonight and Fri, 7.30pm

MAESTROS CONDUCT Yehudi Menuhin kicks off the Warsaw Sinfonia's UK tour tonight at the Barbican, with an all-Beethoven programme of *Egmont* Overture, Piano Concerto No 4 and Symphony No 3 *Over at the Festival Hall*, 20th-century specialist **Leonard Slatkin** and the Philharmonia Orchestra offer a world premiere for John Casken, sandwiched in between Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending* and Holst's *The Planets*
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) **Festival Hall**, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Both, 7.30pm

☐ **THE TAMING OF THE SHREW** Michael Siberry and Josie Lawrence at the centre of Gale Edward's peculiar production from last year's Stratford **Barbican**, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891) Opens tonight, 7pm Then in rep with *Romeo and Juliet*

ELSEWHERE

BRADFORD Peter Hall, Felicity Kendal and Gerald Scarfe team up again for Georges Feydeau's classic farce, **Emily Needs Attention**. Sparks fly as a master of the foibles of society looks at best friends, lovers and large inheritances. Ned Pearson, Nicholas Le Prevost and Alfred Marks join in the fun **Alhambra**, Morley Street (01274-752 000) Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed 2pm and Sat, 2.30pm Now on tour prior to a West End run

OXFORD Final week for one of the more interesting celebrations of the centenary of the cinema. **The Director's Eye** is a collaboration between the Oxford Museum of Modern Art and the British Film Institute, showing off the cream of designs and directors' drawings: film-makers such as Eisenstein, Fellini and Hitchcock were also gifted draughtsmen, and along with their graphic works are original designs by Alfred Junge for *Black Narcissus* Paul Lehr for *Waxworks* and Christopher Hobbs for *Caravaggio*, not to mention costume designs for Marlene Dietrich in *The Garden of Allah*.
Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street (01865 722733). Tue-Sat, 10am-6pm (Thurs to 9pm); Sun, 2-6pm.

HULL: The Canterbury Tales are back on the road from tonight, played as a modern-day storytelling competition, with a nervous vicar as MC (Brian Cant) *and Brian Glover as the irrepressible* Miller Adapted by Michael Bogdanov and written by Robin Davies.
New, Kingston Square (01482 226855). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

British Museum: Vases and Volcanoes: Sir William Hamilton collection (0171-636 1555) . **Courtauld:** *Drawings by Thomas* Gainsborough (071-873 2526) . **Hayward** Spellbound: Art and Film (071-928 3144) . **Museum of London:** London on Film (0171-600 0807) **National Gallery:** Old Master paintings from Rome's Doria Pamphilj Gallery (0171-747 2885) . **National Portrait Gallery:** Faces of the 80s (0171-306 0055) . **Royal Academy:** Frederic Leighton (0171-439 7438) . **Tate:** Cézanne (0171-887 8000) . **V&A:** Leighton Frescoes (0171-938 8500) **Whitechapel:** Jeff Wall's transparencies (0171-522 7888)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

◪ **CLOCKS AND WHISTLES** Michael Cashman heads a talented young cast struggling with a menage a trois in late-night London. Samuel Adamson's first play and Dominic Dromgoole's first production here as Artistic Director
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (0181-743 3388) Mon-Sat, 8pm

◪ **THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)** The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard *The Complete History of America (abridged)* plays Tues
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1737) Wed-Sat, 8pm, Mats Thurs 3pm, Sat, 5pm and Sun 4pm

◪ **LA DOLCE VITA** New David Glass production, derived from the Fellini film that introduced us to the word paparazzo
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311) Opens tonight, 7pm Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Apr 20 and 27, 2.30pm Until Apr 27.

☐ **ELVIS** Revival of the 20-year-old tribute show. P.J. Proby plays the Vegas Elvis, newcomer Alexander Bar is the teenager and Tim Whitnall (the teenager 20 years ago) now plays the Pelvis in his prime. Positively no emphasis on the late-night gorging on peanut butter and pills torpedoes
Prince of Wales, Coventry Street W1 (0171-839 5972) Now previewing.

tonight-Thurs 8pm, Fri and Sat, 8.30pm Opens Apr 15, 7pm

☐ **HARRY AND ME** A dire chat show equals a dire chat show is the revelation in Nigel Williams' disappointing play With Ron Cook, Sheila Hancock, Dudley Sutton
Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm mats Apr 18, 3pm and Sat 3.30pm

☐ **MARY STUART** Superb playing by Anna Massey as Schiller's Virgin Queen French actress Isabelle Huppert less at ease with the language as her doomed rival
National (Lyttelton) South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Wed, 2.15pm In rep

◪ **MISS JULIE** Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch and John Hannah in Strindberg's tale of erotic passion and power
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat 3.30pm

◪ **SKYLIGHT** Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lia Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two lovers
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat 3pm

◪ **TOMMY** Hugely impressive staging of the traumatised child's apotheosis to pinball wizard Loads of electronic tricks disguise the improbability
Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-379 5399) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **VICTORIANA** New political play by David Hare, this time about Disraeli, Gladstone and the latter's concern for prostitutes Jon Harris directs
New End, 27 New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm

LONG RUNNERS

☐ **Buddy** Strand (0171-930 8800) . . ☐ **Communicating Doors**, Savoy (0171-836 8888) ☐ **Funny Money** Playhouse (0171-839 4401) ◪ **Grease** Dominion (0171-416 6060) ☐ **Jeeves** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) ■ **Les Misérables** Palace (0171-434 0909) . . ◪ **Oliver!** Palladium (0171-494 5020) ◪ **Starlight Express** Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) ◪ **The Women in Black**, Fortune (0171-836 2238)
Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol v) on release across the country

Odeon Kensington (01426 914666) **West End** (01426 915574)

◆ **DEAD MAN WALKING** (15) Oscar winner Susan Sarandon visits Sean Penn on Death Row. Powerful, carefully balanced drama about capital punishment. Director, Tim Robbins
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Road** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Phoenix** (0181-883 2233) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

FRENCH TWIST (18) Jovial French farce with a lesbian angle from writer-director Josiane Balasko, who co-stars with Victoria Abril.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Odeons: Mezzanine** ◪ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **GET SHORTY** (15) John Travolta's loanshark takes on the movie business. Entertaining but trivial comedy, with Danny De Vito, Gene Hackman, Rene Russo, Delroy Lindo
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

NEW RELEASES

NADJA Adventures of Dracula's offspring in New York. Arty but effective horror film from US independent Michael Almereyda. With Elina Lowensohn and Peter Fonda
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **ICA** ◪ (0171-930 3647) **MGM Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST (PG) Cary Grant is mistaken for a non-existent spy. Welcome revival of Hitchcock's playful, entertaining thriller (1959), with James Mason and Eva Marie Saint
Lumiere (0171-836 0691)

SMALL FACES (18) Gillies and Billy Mackinnon's marvellous evocation of a Glasgow childhood in the late 60s, largely cast with local talent
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

SWIMMING WITH SHARKS (15) Jet-black satire about Hollywood, with Kevin Spacey as a monstrous studio executive, and Frank Whaley Director, George Huang
MGMs: Fulham Road ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666)

CURRENT

◆ **BRAVEHEART** (15) Mel Gibson directs and stars in his Oscar-laden, blood-thirsty epic about the 13th century Scottish rebel William Wallace
Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **JUMANJI** (PG) Exhilarating romp about a rainforest board game that comes to life With Robin Williams.
MGM Trocadero ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **LAWNMOWER MAN 2: BEYOND CYBERSPACE** (12) Patrick Bergin and kids battle Matt Frewer in the land of virtual reality Moderate high-tech fantasy, directed by Farhad Mann
Odeon West End (01426 915574)

◆ **SGT. BILKO** (PG) Crass spin-off from Phil Silvers' television comedy classic, with Steve Martin as the conniving army sergeant. With Dan Akyroyd Director, Jonathan Lynn
Empire ◪ (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Fulham Road** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **TOY STORY** (PG) Computer-animated Disney delight with a cast of fretful toys. With the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.
Barbican ◪ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Square** (01426-915 683) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

For a richer diet, add Swedes

MITCH JENKINS

Anne Sofie von Otter proudly tells **Hilary Finch** why her recital menu has acquired a nationalistic flavour

Bill, Bell, Ball ... the words descend the stairs, step by step, with the Swedish *mezzo* Anne Sofie von Otter, who is warming up — not, like most of her colleagues, through singing, but by using her own carefully structured programme of speech therapy. She discovered the method after a particularly testing period of overwork, and finds it as useful for gritting her teeth to talk to a journalist as for preparing a Schumann song.

Her Wigmore Hall recital this week offers a characteristically *challenging programme*: Schumann rarities, including a long, chattering song about a fortune-teller ("the speech therapy certainly helps with the colours of consonants and vowels there") and something new: a group of turn-of-the-century Swedish songs, little known until the recent release of her latest recording, *Wings in the Night*.

> ‘They say that every tenth Swede belongs to a choir’

Britain awoke a decade or so ago to the golden age of Nordic art, when the dark interiors and light-dappled *plein-air* canvases of the National Romantic painters filled the Hayward Gallery with their *Dreams of a Summer Night*. The golden age of song, though, is still virtually unknown to us, and von Otter and her pianist Bengt Forsberg have a strong sense of missionary zeal.

There will be a group of songs by Wilhelm Stenhammar, better known here for his symphonies and string quartets; and a handful by Peterson-Berger, exuberant settings of folk poetry much admired by Strindberg. And von Otter's own favourite: the exquisite settings of Chinese poetry by the orientalist Sigurd von Koch, reminiscent of Mahler's *Song of the Earth*, shaped by spare vocal and pianistic brushstrokes evoking lotus-blossom and moonlight.

Von Otter's enthusiasm for spreading their words is compromised somewhat by the closeness she feels to the repertoire. "It's rather nice to keep these songs for yourself, in a way. Of course they deserve to be far more widely known. But when my friend Barbara Bonney includes some *Swedish songs in* a recital, I always feel a degree of possessiveness. I feel very Swedish, proud of my country and its wide spaces, its seasons, its light.

"Of course, there is a unique tradition of singing in Sweden: they say every tenth Swede belongs to a choir. You can sing so well in Swedish: Danish is so much further back in the throat, and the Norwegians tend to talk much higher than we do."

Push von Otter too far on the subject, though, and the cool, grey-blue eyes will glaze over. England, after all, was as important a part of her upbringing as Sweden. The daughter of a diplomat, von Otter lived in London between the ages of seven and 12. "I would sing at the piano with my mother at home, and we particularly loved English Christmas carols," she says. "We sang them all year round, *so that after the tenth performance of Good King Wenceslas* in May, the neighbours would plead for us to sing something else."

Von Otter was back in London at 20, studying at the Guildhall with Vera Rozsa, who told her that her voice was bland and needed a far wider palette of colour to hold an audience's attention. "She showed me my repertoire, the Mozart trouser-roles, and Richard Strauss later — although I was very reluctant to go into opera." By the 1994-95 season von Otter was giving 20 performances a year. Now she plans to concentrate on fewer roles: Idamante, Sesto, Octavian, Gluck's Orfeo and Bartók's Judit.

"Opera interests me and it's good for me," she says. "But with two children just starting at school, the working periods are simply too long. When I sing Lieder, I'm my own director, my own conductor. I can work at my leisure in Stockholm with Bengt, who lives near by. My family is the real future.

"I now realise that my voice — and my life — are not endless. I was always the youngest child, the gifted little girl, until May 9 last year when I turned 40. It's like braking suddenly in a car. In front of me there's death. There's the end of my career. But there's so much more that Bengt and I want to do."

Such as a disc of French *chamber songs, due for release* in the autumn. More Zemlinsky, more Mahler. A new opera and a new song-cycle written specially for her by Sven-David Sandström.

"So many of our colleagues are tired of music. They want to go golfing, to do anything but music. But Bengt and I are *hungry* for music."

● *Anne Sofie von Otter is at the Wigmore Hall, London W1 (0171-935 2141) on Thursday, 7.30pm*



"I feel very Swedish, proud of my country and its wide spaces, its seasons, its light," says Anne Sofie von Otter, whose imminent London recital will include several Swedish songs

Voices of authority

EARLY MUSIC

Concerto Italiano
Snape Maltings

RECORDINGS by Concerto Italiano have won many prizes: their performances have created a flurry of controversy in the Early Music world. They made their first appearance in this country at the Aldeburgh Early Music Festival last Saturday, 12 years after the group was formed by Rinaldo Alessandrini.

I am not among those who would say that, without exception, Italian music should be sung by Italians (the basis for the controversy), but a knowledge of the language in which Monteverdi's word-based madrigals were conceived and composed has to give Concerto Italiano a head start.

It should be emphasised, however, that it is not just that these Italian singers can bring out every nuance and inflection of their own language; it is equally important that they are such good singers, and that their interpretations are as strong musically as those of any group I have heard. The quality of the voices of the team of six singers who visited Snape Maltings (and who made the most of its clear but vibrant acoustics) was high and their technical control superb. I must single out the bass, Sergio Foresti — so few real basses can sing with this agility and accuracy of pitch — but they were all excellent, and blended perfectly without loss of individuality.

The programme was a mix of the familiar and unfamiliar that served to demonstrate the sheer range of Monteverdi's madrigal output over the course of some 50 years. English performance of this repertory has often been described (especially abroad) as cool, but uncontrolled passion is not what is required either, as Concerto Italiano showed. Their approach is full of intensity and, yes, sensuality, but it is always musically disciplined, rhythmically taut and based on a technical control that allows the softest pianissimo imaginable without vocal whiteout.

From some of Monteverdi's earliest essays in a highly expressive chromatic idiom in the second book of madrigals (1590), to the music-drama experiments of the eighth (1638), these were near-flawless performances from singers and instrumentalists (harp and theorbo in addition to harpsichord) alike. Definitely one of those concerts that will linger in the memory.

TESS KNIGHTON

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 0171 304 4000 for Box Off & Standby info. Tickets available on the day
The Royal Opera
Tonight (First Night), Fri 7.30
NABUCCO
Thur 7.00 ARABELLA
The Royal Ballet
Sat 2.00 & 7.00 (Last Night) GISELLE
Mon 7.30 (First Night)
Ashton's
ILLUMINATIONS/SYMPHONIC VARIATIONS/THE DREAM

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BEST ACTOR
ADRIAN LESTER
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SHEILA GISH
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SAM MENDES
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COMPANY
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COMEDY 0171 369 1731/ cc 344 4444 (24hrs)
KEVIN WHATELY
TIMOTHY WEST — PETER VAUGHAN
TONY HAYGARTH — TIM HEALY
TWELVE ANGRY MEN
Directed by Harold Pinter
Previews from Thursday
Opens 22 April at 7.00

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"A triumph" Times
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THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (abridged)
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■ VISUAL ART 1

A new National Portrait Gallery show looks at how Livingstone and the Victorians grappled with Africa



■ VISUAL ART 2

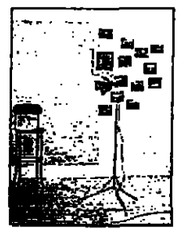
Avis Newman fills the Camden Arts Centre with her paintings, her first British exhibition for five years

THE TIMES ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

... while Alison Wilding meditates on mortality in her intriguing stainless steel sculpture, *Echo*



■ VISUAL ART 4

... and an account of what the artist Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster saw as a French visitor to India

Exploring the heart of Africa

The Livingstone exhibition is a revealing anatomy of the British way with empires, says **Isabel Carlisle**

If you expect a soul-searching, politically correct examination of the white man's burden from the National Portrait Gallery's exhibition on Livingstone and Africa, you will be disappointed. This show is about the Victorians and how they grappled with the great continent: determination, self-help and obsessive ambition are the meaty themes.

David Livingstone's background as a child factory worker who achieved his ambition to be a missionary by night-time study, his belief in commerce as an arm of philanthropy, his anti-slavery stance and physical bravery, all locked into Victorian ideals and aspirations. His expeditions constituted all that was best about the British Empire and outflanked the competition in the race for Africa.

That he, in fact, consistently failed to achieve what he set out to do was, in the long run, of minor importance. Livingstone's exploits were extraordinary from any point of view. He arrived in South Africa in 1841 as a missionary but stayed put only long enough to make one convert. (Unfortunately for the London Missionary Society, which had sent Livingstone, this was a slight conquest because Chief Sechele of the Kwena endured monogamy for only a matter of months. Livingstone was not unsympathetic: he understood the African resistance to Christianity, which attacked the very basis of their way of life.) Instead, leaving the mission behind, Livingstone between 1853 and 1856 set off to traverse sub-Saharan Africa from coast to coast, a distance of about 2,000 miles from Luanda in the west to Quelimane near the mouth of the Zambezi in the east: one of the two or three greatest feats of land exploration in history.

En route, he encountered Mosioatunya, "the smoke that thunders", and named it the Victoria Falls. Livingstone came back to England a hero, lionised in society and welcomed into the tight network of science and politics in which Sir Roderick Murchison, president of the Royal Geographical Society, played a key role. It was Murchison who obtained the support of Parliament for Livingstone's second African expedition: the exploration of the Zambezi.

The Zambezi trip was a disaster. The steamboat that had been transported in bits from England kept running aground and had to be abandoned. The enormous drop of 600ft of the Cabora Bassa rapids in any case meant that the river was unnavigable, and plans of opening up southern Africa to industry and commerce via the Zambezi had to be abandoned.

Livingstone quarrelled with all the expedition's members in turn, including his brother. Nor were any converts made, and many of the missionaries who had been encouraged by Livingstone's unrealistic accounts died of malaria and other diseases.

Acutely conscious of his failure and of the withdrawal of public esteem, Livingstone conceived an ambition to compete with Grant, Burton and Speke in the race to find the source of the Nile. It was on this last, badly planned expedition that Livingstone disappeared and James Gordon Bennett, Editor of the *New York Herald*, sent his reporter Stanley to find him, thus engineering one of the greatest scoops in the history of journalism.

Finding in Livingstone the father figure that he lacked, Stanley ignored the flaws in his character and instead described Livingstone as "near an angel as the nature of living man will allow". The discovery of a forgotten saint rather than a brave but embittered man undoubtedly also made for better copy. Stanley's account formed the core for the myth that was to be constructed about Livingstone after his death in the swamps of Lake Bangweulu on the same expedition in 1873.

Because Livingstone could not draw, the plates for his first book (a bestseller) were worked up in London from verbal descriptions. On the Zambezi trip the party included an artist called Thomas Baines, whose sketches and paintings are one of the delights of this show.

Baines resisted Livingstone's instructions to make purely ethnographic drawings of the Africans they encountered and painted sympathetic portraits of two of the slaves at the Portuguese colony of Tete. He later went on to produce the first painting of the Victoria Falls, a fascinating meeting of the British landscape tradition with a drama of subtropical vegetation, panic-stricken water buffalo, big-game hunters and the thundering waters of the falls.

Paintings are only a part of the context within which this show tells Livingstone's story. Photographs, letters, travel notes, scientific records, stuffed birds and animals, as well as artefacts brought back from Africa, all evoke the continent through the sensibilities and preoccupations of the Victorian explorers. Having grown up in a pre-Darwinian generation, these men had no problems in perceiving Africa through a fusion of science, religion and poetry.

Most extraordinary and most poignant perhaps are the hats that Livingstone and Stanley wore at their famous meeting, and a section of the baobab tree under which Livingstone's African bearers buried his heart before carrying his body to the coast. I defy anyone not to engage with this insight into the anatomy of empire.

● *David Livingstone and the Victorian Encounter with Africa, at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (0171-306 0055) until July 7*



ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

Herd of Buffalo opposite Garden Island, Victoria Falls (c 1862-65) by Thomas Baines. His paintings and sketches are one of the delights of the Livingstone show

GALLERY ROUND-UP

THERE are perhaps too many elements in Ed Lipski's first one-person show, but it is obvious that the overcrowding is intended to wrongfoot any simple understanding of what he is about. A huge daft blackbird, covered in real feathers, hangs low in the gallery on a perch. Models of children have black, beady mixture smeared illogically across their mouths and eyes. A pink pig becomes a rounded, faceless, tail-less object with few features left. It is difficult to know just where the references associated with one object stop and the next lot start, but such work suggests exciting possibilities.
Entwhistle 6 Cork Street London W1 (0171-734 6440) until May 4

☐ The inaugural exhibition at Robert Prime is an account by Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster of what she saw as a French visitor to India. Through the simple device of mapping out distinct areas in colour painted on to the walls, she manages to orchestrate divisions and boundaries between different spaces in the gallery. Photographs, maps and plans of Chandigarh in the Punjab, designed by Le Courbusier, show the contradiction between untidy reality and planned Modernism. Without attempting a false overview, however, Gonzalez-Foerster also shows transparencies of a face or hand, and details taken from Indian painting fixed on to fluorescent citron-green walls.
Robert Prime, 60/61 Warren Street, London W1 (0171-916 6366) until April 20

☐ The sheer range of Graham Gussin's work seems to demand a particular kind of attention. Labour-intensive pencil drawings of aerial overviews are shown alongside finely drawn abstract plans, maps and diagrams. At the back of the larger gallery space, a huge picture of two islands ringed by sand and water presents an unreal "view", hinting at the constructed maps, signs, plans and charts next door and downstairs. This newly opened gallery space has been perhaps overfilled by Gussin in his enthusiasm to nudge the viewer towards limitless possibilities.
Lotta Hammer, 51 Cleveland Street, London W1 (0171-636 2221) until May 10

SACHA CRADDOCK

Look closer, and all is revealed

Richard Cork looks beyond the delicate self-effacement and falls for the strength of Avis Newman's paintings and Alison Wilding's sculpture, now on show in London

Some artists thrive on constant visibility, moving from one show to the next with an insatiable thirst for exposure. Others prefer a more reclusive approach. They exhibit sparingly, and never push themselves into headline-hogging manoeuvres. Their work shuns boisterous spectacle, opting instead for subtle, slow-burning strategies which can easily be overlooked by anyone in search of a quick visual fix. But they often turn out to be immensely rewarding, and provide experiences more satisfying than the work of their high-profile contemporaries.

Two of the finest of these deceptively quiet artists, Avis Newman and Alison Wilding, happen to be showing in London at the moment. Their work does not disappoint.

Newman, holding her first exhibition in Britain for five years, fills the Camden Arts Centre with large paintings and small objects that make no attempt to seize the viewer's attention. Seen from a distance, as you enter the grand, handsome gallery where most of them are displayed, the paintings look like monochrome abstractions. Only after closer inspection do these seemingly all-black or all-white images disclose the marks Newman has left on their surfaces.

She thinks of them as spiders' webs, and they certainly have the fragility of thin, delicate tracery discovered dangling in a hedge or a neglected doorway. But if the word "web" implies something intact, than it is misleading. For the faint linear trails in Newman's pictures all seem broken. The "web" has already begun to disintegrate. Its particles hover uncertainly in space, ready to be battered still further by a sudden rush of wind. At their strongest, on a white canvas called *Webs*

> "Their work shuns spectacle, opting for subtle, slow-burning strategies"

(Backlight) V, displayed in a smaller room, the slender black and grey lines lance through the milkiness of the pigment around them. But even here, they are far from aggressive. They straggle and falter, declaring their hesitancy without pretence.

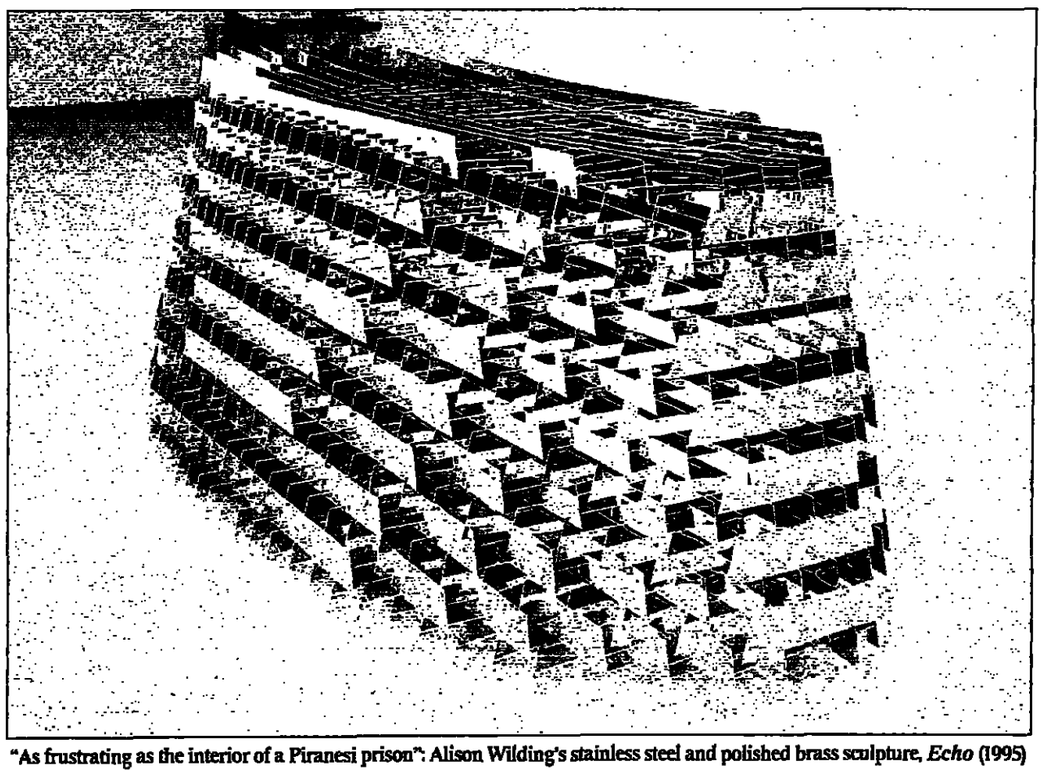
In most of the paintings, though, Newman's marks are more elusive. They hover on the edge of invisibility, and break up into particles so small that they resemble a flock of birds wheeling far above the ground. In the white paintings, they seem about to melt in an all-enveloping haze of radiance. But the black paintings are more alarming, and suggest that the thin lines are threatened with obliteration by a voracious darkness. They flicker in the void, ready at an instant to vanish altogether.

These canvases are quite distinct from Newman's work in the 1980s. There, the presence of both humans and animals could be detected in the billowing forms she spread across her picture-surface. However ambiguous they may have been, they insisted on playing a substantial role in the turbulence of the painting as a whole.

Now, by contrast, they linger only as fast-dissolving suggestions of their former existence. Newman now regards them as, at best, spectral memories. In her latest paintings the particles have been completely absorbed in dense fields of subdued colour. Absence here becomes an unavoidable reality. Like so many other artists in the mid-1990s, Newman is preoccupied by transience and loss.

Only in her boxes does she retain a hold over the solidity of objects. Supported by white plinths and encased in Perspex containers, these wood rectangles await examination in the third gallery. Some contain shells, arranged neatly on ledges like prized items in a collection. Others are hard to fathom, like the box opening on one side to reveal a dour, stained surface within.

But these boxes lack the imaginative power Newman commands when she applies brush to canvas. I spent far more time with the paintings, and found myself fascinated by their ability to alter each time they were scrutinised. Nuance is all in these evanescent images. If they are preoccupied with the inevitability of loss, their refinement ensures that melancholy is countered by a beautifully judged lyricism. That is why Newman's exhibition is, in the end, so heartening. It confronts the prospect of extinction with poise, and refuses to let gloom snuff out vitality even when exploring the very heart of darkness.



"As frustrating as the interior of a Piranesi prison": Alison Wilding's stainless steel and polished brass sculpture, *Echo* (1995)

Alison Wilding, whose exhibition at Karsten Schubert consists of a single sculpture, also meditates on mortality. *Echo*, the title she has chosen for this gently commanding work, reminds us of the nymph who died after yearning without avail for Narcissus's love. She gradually faded into the encircling forest, and Wilding's horizontal sculpture rests on the floor like a monumental coffin.

Rather than oppressing us with its bulk, however, *Echo* proves as elusive as one of Newman's feathery paintings. Its interlocking stainless steel slats tease the eye with their geometrical complexity. Highly reflective, they are broken up by the light. And, as we explore their glinting, fractured segments, so we realise how bewildering the structure will remain.

Like Narcissus, I found my own face mirrored when I crouched down to peer into the sculpture. But it was a fragmented reflection, and I grew simultaneously aware of my ability to see deep inside the work. There, the fantastic intricacy of the slats creates labyrinthine spaces as frustrating as the interior of a Piranesi prison.

Gradually, though, I became conscious of a presence lodged inside. Difficult to see from the sides, it is clearer from above. Made of polished brass, this mysterious sphere may refer to Echo's head. But Wilding ensures that it evades any clear-cut identification, even if the sharpness of the slats might well evoke Echo's body as it changed from bones to rock.

Metamorphosis is surely the governing idea at work. The initial impression of a coffin gives way to a more transparent alternative, inviting us to lose ourselves in its mazelike interior. As ever in Wilding's work, tension is generated by the bringing together of two contrasted elements: the brittle interplay of countless steel units, and the rounded solidity of a single brass form. Ultimately, though, the sphere proves impossible to pin down: whenever we look at it from a different angle, the brass appears to have changed position. Instead of remaining solitary, it jumps around the sculpture like the voice of Echo herself, who could only speak when repeating someone else's words.

So we are left with a stimulating conundrum. If Wilding's exhibit is indeed concerned with a nymph's death, it can be seen as a sombre memorial. At the same time, however, the restlessness created by its reflections and baffling interstices is at odds with the whole notion of a sarcophagus. The artist herself has written that, when she was working on the model for *Echo*, it exuded "a concentrated stare, of brass at steel and steel at brass. It's an intense, obsessional stare and mirrors mine at it."

Those words help to explain why the entire sculpture seems far too alive to be confined by the negation of the grave. Suspended within its metal prison, the sphere may still be animated by the nymph's unrequited passion.

● *Avis Newman at Camden Arts Centre, Arkwright Road, London NW3 (0171-435 3643) until May 5*
● *Alison Wilding at Karsten Schubert, 41/42 Foley Street, London W1 (0171-631 0031) until Saturday, and then at Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, April 25 to May 31*

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Sue Wright explains why she finally decided to take the test for Huntington's disease



Sue Wright with Elizabeth: "At some point we will have to explain to her that her mother has this gene, but we will take life as it comes." Photograph by PETER NICHOLLS

For the love of Elizabeth

When my father was first diagnosed as having Huntington's disease (HD) it was a shock to us all, as we did not know that it ran in the family. I was 14 years old when I knew that my two sisters and I had a 50 per cent chance of developing HD.

I am now 39 years old and have lived with that risk for many years. It's a yo-yo type of existence: one minute convinced that you have HD, the next feeling guilty that you might be worrying about nothing — you might be in the 50 per cent who do not have the HD gene. It was always in the background, becoming worse at certain times of life. It was another complication to consider when forming relationships with boyfriends. Life insurance and endowments have also been a problem.

When I applied for a nursing job in New Zealand I realised that they would not accept me on a long-term basis. In practice, being at risk meant that I was treated in the same way as if I definitely had the gene. (Those who are HIV-positive but who don't have Aids are in a similar predicament.)

Howard and I had known each other for about five years when we decided to go for genetic counselling in January 1993. We were serious about each other but unable to make any decisions regarding marriage or having a family. It was one thing to know that I could develop HD myself, but quite another knowing that any children would be at risk too. We needed to find out about all the options before deciding whether or not to have a family.

When we first started genetic counselling no one was yet able to predict how close they were to cloning the gene. The only other test that was available was an exclusion test. This would compare my genetic material with my mother's. The foetus could then be tested, and if it had my mother's genetic material it was less likely to have my father's.

Although Howard and I had an easy and open relationship, it was often less painful to avoid speaking about important issues. The counselling was on a regular basis and we really appreciated the professional way in which it was carried out. We were able to reveal our worst fears to ourselves and to each other. Did we really want to have a child, and could we cope with having an abortion?

When the HD gene was cloned in March 1993 we had already had a few sessions with our genetic counsellor. I had been waiting for years for the gene to be identified, and when I found that I could have a genetic test it was a strange feeling. We had to consider seriously whether we were better off living at risk or living knowing I had the gene. There would be no going back.

The fact that we wanted a child also put a slightly different angle on the situation. If I knew that I had the gene, then I would know whether I could pass it on or not. It seemed the most sensible first step. I also felt that if I had the gene and had any regrets later in knowing about it, then at least I would feel that I had done it for the sake of a possible child.

We decided to go ahead with the test. Howard and I planned to get married beforehand — we knew we wanted to make a commitment to each other. However, it meant at least two counselling sessions with three months between them. Before the test we both felt that if I did have the gene we would not have a child. Part of me was afraid of knowing that I might have the gene, but then I also felt fed up with being at risk. It was also difficult not to think of the possibility of being clear. We tried not to raise our hopes. When we were given the date of our test result, we booked a holiday so that neither of us had to be at work after the result was known.

I took care in deciding which friends I could tell, as not all would understand. This choice became more important as we approached the test because we knew that we needed the support of friends, but also that we needed privacy and space — particularly if we had to come to terms with a positive result. Therefore, we decided to confide in just two couples with whom we were close and whose views we respected. Our families were too close to talk to immediately.

When we had the result that I had the gene it was still a shock. We had feelings which were similar to a bereavement: first, we knew I would get HD, and secondly, what at the time seemed inevitable — the loss of not having a child. However, we had been well prepared. We both felt more at peace now we knew I had the gene. I'm sure fear can build up around something that might or might not happen and sometimes it's better to know the truth.

Neither of us regretted the decision at all. We continued with the counselling and were surprised that we still wanted to have a child. Initially, I felt guilty about this. I felt that because I have the gene I should not have a child as well. Perhaps I saw Howard looking after me and a needy child, or perhaps I just felt it wouldn't be fair to the child knowing that I could be ill for many years.

However, we had always wanted a child and, in the end, after a lot of agonising, I chose to get pregnant. We had also decided that we would have the baby tested. It is the same test that I had, but done on the 11-week-old foetus, and similarly proves conclusively whether the baby has inherited the gene. It was a big decision and we had a lot of counselling and support.

We knew there was a 50 per cent chance of any child of ours having the gene, and it was a particularly traumatic decision to get pregnant because we had both decided that if the baby had the gene then I would have the pregnancy terminated. The fact that we both reached this decision helped to ease the burden, and our friends were very supportive too.

I found out that I was five weeks pregnant in February last year. I felt pretty neutral about it because, in a way, I was gearing myself up for a termination — there was no point in getting excited, only for it all to end.

Those six weeks leading up to the test were very hard. I hadn't told my family about the fact that I had inherited the gene, and so chose not to tell them about the pregnancy, either. Howard and I both felt that it wouldn't have been worth telling them without the happy news that the baby was clear. It was very stressful, the sort of time you can't really describe in words.

The test on the baby was performed at Guy's Hospital. It is like an amniocentesis, on a sample of cells. It is strange that a test that will reveal something so momentous only takes such a short while. We waited just under a week for the result, just praying for the right news. When we found out, the relief was enormous, we were so happy. The baby was completely clear.

I decided that the moment was then right to tell my family both about my own test and the baby. It was a very emotional time, as there was great sadness for me mixed with great joy for the baby. My family were not taken aback in the sense that they always knew we were all at risk from the gene, but so far they have chosen not to take the test.

In September last year I gave birth to a beautiful 7lb 13oz baby girl. Elizabeth is a source of great joy for us both. At some point we will have to explain that her mother has got this gene, but we will take it as it comes and pray for advancements in medical science. The way I see it, people get ill anyway and there is no point in upsetting her unnecessarily.

We won't have another child, as the risk is not reduced and I don't feel I want to go through it again. We have been blessed with Elizabeth, and we want to enjoy her. The main thing is knowing that she's not at risk. We keep our minds open about the rest.

● *Sue Wright tells her story in* The Troubled Helix: social and psychological implications of the new human genetics, *edited by Theresa Marteau and Martin Richards (Cambridge University Press)*

● *Huntington's Disease Association, 108 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HP (0171-223 7000).*

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When exercise is bad for you

If you are not fit, don't overdo it, says Dr Thomas Stuttaford

WATCHED by more than seven million television viewers Adam Frost, the stroke of the Oxford boat, clutched his chest as he crossed the finishing line at Chiswick Bridge after four miles and 374 yards of gruelling rowing.

As Mr Frost is only 21 and in peak condition, he can be assured that the race is unlikely to have done him harm: any chest discomfort is likely to stem from simple breathlessness coupled with disappointment. If he were unfit, or older, the gesture might have had a more sinister connotation.

Research workers funded by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) recently investigated the effect of exercise on fibrinogen levels. Fibrinogen is one of the clotting factors in the blood and it is thought to be implicated in coronary heart disease; too much circulating fibrinogen can be a portent of cardiac trouble.

A team of research workers, doctors and scientists, from University College Hospital, London, has studied the effects of exercise on army recruits. The team, led by Professor Steven Humphries, took regular blood samples from 150 entrants and plotted the effect of what was for many of them unaccustomed physical exercise. The study provided further proof that regular exercise, whether around the parade ground or across country, was good for the heart. In the first ten weeks of training the average fibrinogen levels dropped significantly, by 11.9 per cent.

The lower fibrinogen levels found in well-drilled soldiers provide a wonderful argument for the brisk walk to the office each morning, but the rest of the research casts considerable doubt about the benefits of violent exercise, whether it is, for instance, rowing in the university Boat Race or running the London Marathon.

The BHF found that fibrinogen levels responded quite differently when exercise was carried to the point of exhaustion, as in the Boat Race or when the recruits they were studying were driven to the limits of their physical endurance. In these stressful circumstances blood fibrinogen levels leapt up, but Professor Humphries was content that as the recruits were young, healthy and by now physically fit, their hearts were not in danger.

Professor Humphries's research also found that 20 per cent of the population inherit a gene which gives them higher levels of fibrinogen when leading a normal life, and an increased liability to suffer a particularly marked rise in the level after exhausting exercise.

Professor Brian Pentecost, the medical director of the BHF, said: "This research confirms that regular exercise, enough to make you slightly breathless, is ideal when taken for 30 minutes five days a week, but that it should not be so violent as to leave you exhausted."

Earlier research has shown that illness, cold weather and unaccustomed exhausting exercise, particularly for those who are normally sedentary, increase blood fibrinogen levels, and appear to be part of the cause of heart attacks and strokes. The change, for instance, in the fibrinogen levels after a chilling 20 minutes in the cold can be enough to cause a reaction.

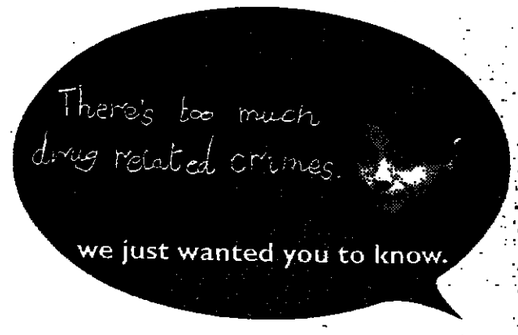


Exercise should leave you breathless but not exhausted

and is one of the factors which help to fill the obituaries columns after a cold snap.

Finding that there is a variant in the fibrinogen gene which occurs in a fifth of the population and which is associated with increased fibrinogen levels brings doctors closer to being able to predict which of their patients have a high risk of suffering coronary heart disease.

Once identified, these people can be treated and given advice as to the activities they should pursue. This advice would include not taking part in marathon running, and it might even discourage exchanging life at a City desk, with little daily exercise, for the rigours of the ski slopes.



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The socialist queen of Herts?

Barbara Follett's political ambitions have produced resentment in the Tory marginal, Stevenage. Julia Llewellyn Smith **canvassed opinion in both the old and new towns**

It is a pretty white workman's cottage, with a tiled roof and red door. The tiny front lawn is immaculately kept and in the patch of garden at the back the primroses are in bloom. But few people would want to swap a £2 million mansion in Chelsea or a villa in the South of France for this three-up, two-down in the heart of Stevenage's old town.

Yet this is the house that Barbara Follett, 53, wife of the bestselling novelist and millionaire Ken, bought for £110,000 when she learnt she had won the Labour candidacy for this marginal seat. Already she spends Thursday to Sunday there, and if she wins the seat from the Tory Tim Wood she says she will move there full-time.

A former "image maker" to the Labour Party, Mrs Follett spent years brushing flecks of dandruff off lapels, straightening collars and ensuring that no party member wore odd socks. If ever a place needed a Follett makeover it is Stevenage, a new town 25 miles north of London, built to overcome the chronic housing shortage in the capital after the war. Its population rose from 6,200 to 76,000 but the boom was brief. Now unemployment stands at 8 per cent.

No wonder, then, that in the mock-Tudor houses of the Conservative old town and the postwar housing estates of the Labour new town, Mrs Follett's campaign is viewed with a deep-rooted cynicism.

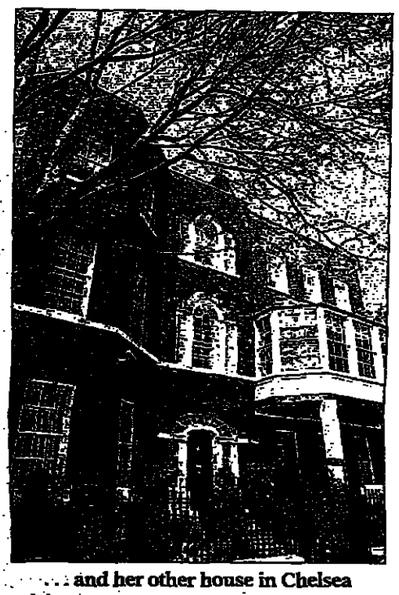
Already Mrs Follett has enraged the locals by painting her front door red to match her trademark jackets, in a preservation area where all other doors are white. She then made matters worse when she applied for planning permission to expand the garden to include a public footpath and some bushes, which she planned to enclose with a brick wall.

"It was a very insensitive act," says an elderly neighbour, who declined to be named. "It offended the residents of the old town, who hate flashy newcomers, and it offended all the unemployed people who saw them arriving and immediately trying to take over public land to expand their property."

The Folletts, realising they were causing resentment, soon backed down, but the incident confirmed many people's suspicions about the couple who are the embodiment of the phrase "champagne socialism".



The candidate's constituency cottage . . .



. . . and her other house in Chelsea

This is Mrs Follett's third attempt to win a seat, after two unsuccessful attacks in 1983 and 1987 on Tory strongholds in Surrey. This time she has embarked on an intensive campaign to demolish Mr Wood's majority of 4,888, which would disappear with a 3 per cent swing, easily achievable according to the latest opinion polls.

The Folletts have sponsored the kit of the top-scoring striker at Stevenage Borough Football Club, make regular appearances at local schools, and have donated dozens of signed copies of Follett first editions to charity auctions.

Mrs Follett explains that she was attracted to Stevenage because it was the first new town to be built by Labour after the war. "You still feel that 1945 vision is there," she says. "They still give the kids free milk in the schools every day. Community still matters to them. It's a bit like an expatriate community; these are East Enders who have been bombed out of London and dumped in Hertfordshire. I was born in Jamaica and grew up in South Africa and have spent my life moving around, often in expatriate situations, so I can relate to that."

Stevenage is taking a little while to become used to her, however. "I'm not surprised the old town doesn't like her," says Marie Huber, a pensioner who does voluntary work at the Garden House hospice shop in the old town's High Street. "I have been here 33 years and for a long time after I arrived, there were shopkeepers who would make a point of serving the old towners before the new towners."

"I think she has been put here to try and get on," says fellow volunteer Eve Blake, 69. "I don't like being used as the backdoor way in. I would vote Labour in the local elections because I'm quite satisfied with the council, but I definitely wouldn't vote for her.

"I can't understand someone with all that money coming in as a Labour candidate. I'm sure people like her don't understand those they are standing for. In the old Labour days they did come up the hard way. With modern Labour I don't know."

Chris Parker, librarian at the old-town library (where several Follett blockbusters line the returns shelves), says: "Stevenage is very split, this end is very conservative. She is making an effort but I don't think she could do anything right if she tried.



Millionaire Labour candidate Barbara Follett enraged the locals by painting her door red to match her jackets, and trying to expand her garden

"She joined this library with a great flashing of cameras, it was all a bit over-the-top really."

At the Two Diamonds pub, across the road from the Folletts, Hugh Beeton, 56, unemployed, is having a lunchtime pint: "I will vote Labour anyway, because I want to get the Tories out. But I'm not happy about that Follett woman. What does she know about the people in Stevenage and their problems? Why does she need another house? She should have given it to the homeless."

His friend, George Filer, 60, a gardener and member of the local Labour Party, says: "The fact that she is rich is not doing her much cop. Personally, I wish she was more left-wing. But she's quite attractive for 50-odd and she will make a good constituency MP, even if it's not for the right reasons."

Others, however, feel that Barbie and Ken have bestowed on Stevenage a welcome sparkle. "Barbara will add a touch of glamour," declares Jackie Mansfield, at the florist's opposite. "Goodness knows, Stevenage could do with a touch of Chelsea.

"She's a very pleasant woman. I think she will do well, people are impressed by her. She's not pushy. On Mother's Day she came in to the shop and said 'I'm sorry to bother you, but would you mind making up some orders for me?'. Then she sent flowers to quite a few people. I think she's very thoughtful."

Penny Samuels, waiting for her three children outside Barclay Comprehensive, says: "I don't mind if she comes from London, most of us do anyway. I don't even know what she looks like, but I'd vote Labour anyway, because I'm sick of the Tories."

"I like the sound of her," says Stuart Barnett, 26, landlord of the Yorkshire Grey pub, Mr Follett's local. "She hasn't been in politics too long so she's not tainted yet, she's a woman so she probably thinks more about other people than we do. So what, if she is a millionaire? Good for her for having made something of her life.

"But I will reserve judgment on her until she comes into this pub. The vast majority of our punters would not vote at all. They're all young people and they're too lackadaisical. They are on nine-to-five jobs, they earn £100 a week and they spend £95 on Friday and Saturday nights. If she came through this door and talked to a few kids she could get so many votes."

Tunku Varadarajan runs out of puff in the quest for tobacco

Lament of a pipesmoker

BRITAIN'S pipesmokers are a serene fraternity. They puff up their private clouds of smoke, carve ceaselessly at the crust inside their pipes, light more matches a day than the very worst arsonists and sip their soothing whiskies onto palates scarred by the constant burn of tobacco.

But this fumiferous pleasure — so self-possessed, so calm, so introspective — is now threatened by the vileness of today's market practices. It is as if there were a conspiracy against the brotherhood of the briar: seven out of every ten London newsagents do not stock or sell pipe tobacco any more. I know this well, because these figures are the result of my own one-man-and-his-pipe survey.

Other pipesmokers have confirmed the cheerless findings of my four months of depressing research. A recently retired colleague — known for his well-chewed pipe, dwindling hair and temper short as a stub in an ashtray — fumed to me that his neighbourhood newsagent no longer kept anything but cigarettes on the tobacco shelves behind the till.

A sage, bearded colleague at *The Times*, who is an unflappable lunchtime companion of mine, talks wistfully of the days when flake and ready-rubbed were as common as red telephone boxes. An old Jamaican puffer, by whose rumpled side I sit from time to time at The Three Horseshoes, frequently mourns the decline of the Mother Country — by which he means, of course, the disappearance from our streets and shops of good tobacco.



Few shops now stock pipe tobacco

What is going on? Is there a dark plot to turn us all into smokers of cigarettes? Why have the normally diligent and solicitous Mr Patels of Britain's big cities — who take such care to ensure that their shops have every fizz-flavour of sweet drink, every gob-rot of chocolate, every manner of scented potato crisp, every brand of cigarette — stopped stocking pipe tobacco?

There is demand for it: why, at this very moment, as you read this short lament, hundreds of restless men are wandering from shop to shop, with pipesmoking fingers crossed, in search of their packets of St Bruno, their tins of Balkan Sobranie, their Clan.

Yesterday I walked for a mile in Islington, north London — down Upper Street, the Essex Road, a side-street here and there — in search of Erinmore, the tobacco I have loved since my father first blew some in my face when I was a teenager. It is sold in vacuum-packed orange tins, lined with ruched paper (as good tobacco should be), which one prises open with the twist of a slim coin, but in Islington it is sold not at all.

"HAVE YOU any Erinmore?" I asked one overworked newsagent, then a second and a third. Each looked at me with puzzlement, as if I had asked for a daughter's hand in marriage. "No, sorry, don't do that. Don't do pipe tobacco. Try the next shop down the road, I think they have some, but I can't be sure." But the next shop never has any. The search is a futile one.

This is the time, then, for a virile campaign. Pipesmokers, you must unite and fight. Lobby your newsagent. Tell him what you want. Gesticulate energetically at him. Write to the country's pipe-tobacco suppliers, blow up a nimbus of ready-rubbed indignation. And if someone — anyone — dares tell you that your demands are dated, look him squarely in the eye and say: "Put that in your pipe and smoke it!"

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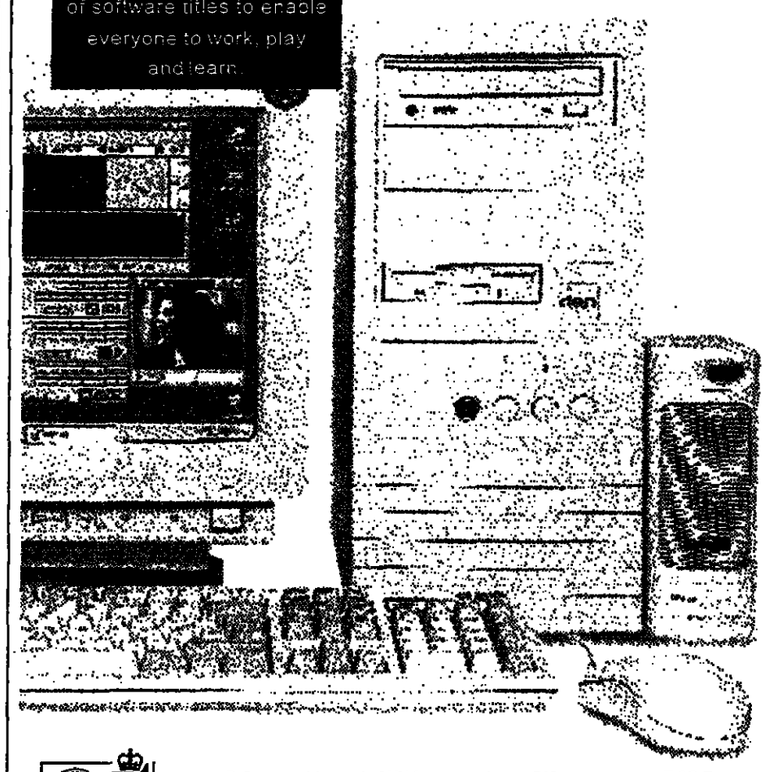
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Get out of the pulpit, Mr Blair

Elizabeth Noel says religion and party politics do not mix

This Easter, the Labour leader, Tony Blair, revealed something of the powerful relationship between his religious beliefs and political conviction. He implied it was difficult to be both a sincere Christian and an honest Conservative. As someone proud to be both I find his arguments unconvincing and his conclusion patronising.

Mr Blair made it clear his views were entirely private: "I do not believe that Christians should only vote Labour; and I do not discuss my religious beliefs unless asked, and, when I do, I discuss them personally. Of course they influence my politics, but I do not wish to force them on anyone else."

Despite the protestation, the implication of his words was clear. He was a Socialist because he was a Christian, and his faith meant he could never be a Conservative. I am baffled by his belief that the two are so interwoven.

In all my conversations about the bread and butter of politics from taxation to education, with both friends and foes, I have never heard a single person mention the Bible, the Gospel, Jesus or religious faiths of any description. Its a blessed relief and one for which there is a simple explanation.

Politics is, by definition, worldly, temporal, pragmatic, opportunistic and frankly, at times, embarrassing. Do we think that both Messrs Major and Blair always feel at their most virtuous thundering away at the dispatch box? I am sure they don't.

Politics is not a way of life, it is simply a part of it. Conversely, religious beliefs can govern the most important parts of our inner life but they cannot reveal where to put the cross in the polling booth. The Christian message is too complex and challenging to be reduced to political propaganda. Jesus, I suspect, would have made an appalling guest speaker at a new Labour rally. He would have made the same rather short speech at all political meetings: "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's."

But, not content just for his religious convictions to underpin his Socialism, it appears that Mr Blair believes it is his "duty" to become Prime Minister. "... There is a human impulse within, which can be fulfilled only through duty. For a politician this idea has important consequences. It means that you see the need for change around you and you accept your duty to do something."

Duty is a difficult concept in politics. No one, after all, is under any duty to become an MP — unless guilt impels you to believe in some patrician idea of *noblesse oblige*. Most people seek election not out of duty but because they believe that one political party is a more competent custodian of our country's needs and aspirations than the alternatives.

Mr Blair need not feel a duty to form a Labour government. Gordon Brown does not have a divine duty to impose a windfall tax. David Blunkett is not impelled by scripture to abolish nursery vouchers, and Clare Short's desire to make the railways publicly owned and accountable is not an integral part of God's plan.

Of course, there is a place for Christian fellowship in the wider context of public life — and this fellowship extends beyond the Christian denominations. I am sure it is felt, briefly at least, during "prayers" which take place in private in the chamber at the beginning of every afternoon Parliament is sitting. Certainly, it is felt when we pray in our school assemblies and our religious congregations for our leaders to be blessed with fortitude, courage and wisdom. But we pray for peace, not Greenpeace. We pray for the end of suffering, not the League Against Cruel Sports. We pray for responsible government, not a particular government.

At the time of the last Labour leadership election I was attending Mass when the bidding prayers, fell, as usual, to a member of the congregation: "Let us pray," she intoned, "that the Labour Party chooses a suitable and uniting candidate in this week's important leadership election." I felt quite embarrassed as I am sure Mr Blair would have done had he been there. I would have felt equally ill-at-ease had she urged us to pray for the Government not to be defeated on the Fisheries Bill.

> Religion cannot reveal where to put the cross at the polls

It's just one example but it does indicate how jarring it is to smuggle party politics into public worship. It is even more difficult to extrapolate a particular political message from a religious text. In his article, Mr Blair reminds us of a speech in which Margaret Thatcher quoted St Paul: "If a man will not work, he shall not eat." To this he offers his own interpretation: "Everyone had a duty to get on and work for the common good. To participate in the benefits, they had to give as well as to take." I agree with him. Who doesn't? Conservatives, he claims, without any evidence. "Tories ... fail to look beyond to the community and the individual's relationship with the community," argues Mr Blair, without proving it. "That is the essential reason why I am on the Left rather than the Right." It is all no more than standard Labour propaganda dignified by association with the divine and all from a man who claims he "couldn't stand politicians who wear God on their sleeves".

Of course, Christians can be Conservative as well as Socialists. Still, how fortunate I will be to have the devout Mr Blair as my opponent at the next election. "Christianity," he reminds us, "is full of mercy and compassion." Since his religious beliefs play such a compelling role in his politics, I look forward to the Leader of the Opposition treating me with plenty of both.

Elizabeth Noel is the prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate for Sedgefield. She has worked for the Catholic Herald *and in the psychology unit of HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs*

The Tories are losing out to Labour on communicating with the electorate, says **Woodrow Wyatt**

Message for Major

While the election draws nearer, most polls still have the Tories no closer to denting Labour's lead. There was a faint flicker of hope in last Friday's *Daily Telegraph* Gallup poll. On the standard question, "if there was a general election tomorrow ...", the Tories had risen by three points to 26 per cent but Labour had merely dropped two points to 55.5 per cent. Never since opinion polls were invented has there been so big a lead for so long for one party. Is the Tory message to blame, or is it the messengers delivering it?

On the BSE scare, the same Gallup poll asked: "Do you on the whole trust what ministers have to say or do you tend to be rather suspicious?" Eighty-six per cent, including 73 per cent of Tory supporters, said they were suspicious. Yet this is a painfully honest Government. Stephen Dorrell, instead of sticking to the safe proposition that there is no scientific evidence to link BSE to CJD, remarked that there were a few cases in which there might be a connection. It would not have been dishonest to have left out this speculation, which certainly damaged the Government. But Tony Blair's blunder at the outset of the affair was far worse. He attacked the noble, sacred British beef and, in true *communitaire* fashion, supported Brussels in its ban on the export of British beef. Since then he has been back-tracking.

Mr Blair has seen dislike of Brussels's bullying rise to loathing. BSE is on its way out in Britain. In 1992 the epidemic affected more than 35,000 cattle. Last year there were fewer than 15,000 cases. Up to March 15 this year the number reported and confirmed had dropped to 1,119, according to the Agriculture Ministry. Most European Union members have cattle with BSE; France has declared that a man has died of CJD through eating BSE-infected meat, but there is no ban on French beef.

We are in the realm of politics, not science. The Germans and French attack Britain over BSE, primarily because it will not bow to their domination. If people thought logically, the overwhelming support for John Major's approach, as distinct from Mr Blair's, would translate itself into voting intentions. Perhaps the EU seems too distant and unreal to the great majority. This mood could well change decisively as Mr Major battles, with favourable publicity, to halt Britain's principal partners' drive to federalism and to remove, through subsidiarity, Brussels's interfering powers.

Brian Mawhinney, Conservative Party chairman, appears to command enthusiasm among his staff but cannot get his message across to voters. He wastes energy on circulating attacks on Blair's "un-American activities", which only annoys Americans. He tangles with Blair on arcane aspects of theology, bemusing to a nation which thinks religion largely irrelevant to politics. Divisions among the Tories are ending, strongly helped by Mr Major's pledge that in the unlikely event of a Tory government recommending a single European currency a referendum would be held first. Splits in the Labour Party widen. The revolt led by Kevin McNamara, former Labour Shadow Secretary for Northern Ireland, against the emergency strengthening of provisions against terrorism, was backed in a Commons division by 40 Labour MPs. Far more Labour MPs than Tories reflect anxiety among supporters about their official policy on the EU.

Labour's education policy has been so badly ripped about that nobody can now tell what it is. It was alarming that Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, had a nasty reception at the National Union of Teachers' conference for her sane policies on grammar schools. That the most powerful teachers' union wants no selection should be fastened on by Dr Mawhinney.

On crime, Labour has voted against or abstained on all Michael Howard's tough measures, which have been backed by the general public — another area for Conservative Central Office to exploit. So is the ill-considered constitutional change planned by Mr Blair. Mr Major makes excellent speeches on the benefits of low inflation, ever cheaper goods and services, the continual rise in prosperity and falling unemployment. The media have been so biased against him that his positive points are obscured.

Dr Mawhinney's team should display them in large newspaper advertisements and on the hoardings emphasising that these successful policies were opposed by Labour. There need be no election before next spring. Despite grumbles, David Trimble's Unionists will not risk losing Mr Major who has so brilliantly put Sinn Fein and the IRA on the spot. There is just enough time for Dr Mawhinney to convert a potential disaster into a triumph.

History in the making

A state-of-the-art Royal Yacht could satisfy traditionalists and modernists

One of the hardest tasks for a nation is to balance its traditions against its future. Alan Bennett encapsulated it beautifully in his 1960s play *Forty Years On*, where the irritable young master puts on a debunking school play about casting off the fetters of national memory: Victorian values, Edwardian graces and wartime heroics. The old headmaster, played by John Gielgud with inspired fustiness, hates every minute of it. "Memories are not shackles, man!" he cries. "They are garlands!"

Bennett's brilliance lies in his ability to laugh at both sides of the argument. The rest of us, depending on the issue, tend to dig in and hammer home the earplugs, terrified to retreat from the one position where we feel safe. So you call down fury by suggesting that we modernise or scrap old ways, old laws, old buildings: on every issue from marriage to streetlamps there is a version of the Victorian Society poised with a sockful of sand to put paid to progress. On other matters you can attract furious contumely by even so much as glancing back to see whether our ancestors got some things right. When my husband first decided to farm with horses and antique machinery, to see what would happen, his postbag could be divided into embarrassing worship and furious, bitter scorn from agribusiness, quite out of proportion to his 35 acres.

We fly off the handle very easily: whether about the rebuilding of Windsor Castle or whether or not children should use calculators. Yesterday Keith Waterhouse even wrote passionately about the death of "proper" Easter eggs with handgrenade markings. Wait for the counterblast from Janet Street-Porter, advocating the radical Damien Hirst egg for today.

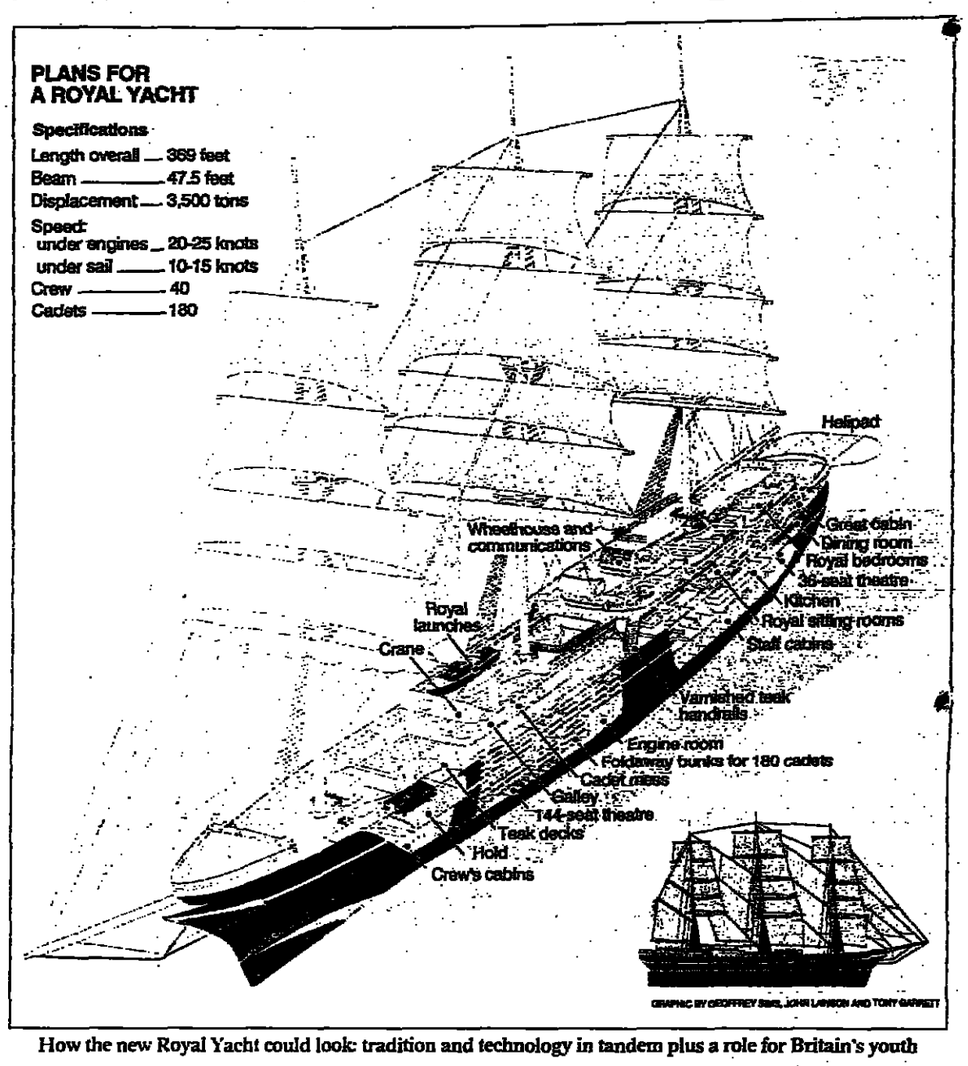
Maybe it is easier in countries whose heritage lies around them all the time, whether in the form of religion, gastronomy or just the siesta habit. Perhaps it is because Britain has changed very fast in this century that while some of us are frightened of going forward, others sense this resistance and are mortally afraid of being sucked back. So the heritage industry flourishes in all its banality while scientists and innovators fight their corner peevishly. Sunday papers alternate between breathless reports of new trends and mumbling toothlessly over the Abdication crisis; politicians confusingly claim both the keys to a golden future and the heirdom to a golden past. Only occasionally do we get a comforting sense of synthesis: say, a picture of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother taking Sarah Chatto's new baby in a carbon-fibre pushchair for a tour of the Cinque Ports (well, one can always dream).

Yet this synthesis is the most desirable thing in the world. We cast off a lot of social shackles in the Sixties and Seventies, and revolutionised economic and working habits in the Eighties. In the Nineties there are signs that we are prepared to look more carefully at what constitutes a useless encrustation and what is an enriching part of national identity. Doctors take an interest in folk-medicine and old remedies (cobwebs, foxgloves and leeches have all found their way back into medicine). Wise farmers keep old breeds alive in case their genes may solve modern problems; BSE has, bitterly, brought home the desirability of glancing back at gentler stockmanship. Wise politicians remember to read history. And, just occasionally, a national scheme comes up which brings together past and present for a concerted, confident, joyful leap into the future. When that does happen it is vital to recognise it, and not to let it be scuppered by an understandable but unnecessary dread of retrospection. Today, the fear of being old-fashioned is itself rather dated.

Libby Purves

The Government is facing one of these big ideas right now, in the proposed new Royal Yacht. All right, slam the newspaper down; I admit that the very act of typing the words "Royal Yacht" caused me to squirm. It is redolent of too many old shackles, too much fusty deference. Besides, this is a sailing ship; and for that reason, they say, the proposal is being opposed within the Cabinet by the Deputy Prime Minister, who fears it would look too old-fashioned to promote British products.

But listen for a moment: this proposal, backed by industry and led by the Commodore of the Royal Yacht Squadron (squirm again), is in fact startlingly modern in the way it combines past and present. They prefer to call it "a ship for the nation"; it has royal apartments, but also better theatres and audio-visuals than the old *Britannia*. It would serve British exporters not only in providing such overt platforms but because Colin Mudie's design uses aggressively modern British materials and technology. Rather to the chagrin of nostalgic old softies like myself, nobody is going to mistake this thing for *HMS Victory*: not only is it engined as well as any modern ship, with a 25-knot top speed, but the sails are computer-monitored, navigation and communications brand new, and it makes wide use of the newest fibre-reinforced composites used in modern lifeboats.



How the new Royal Yacht could look: tradition and technology in tandem plus a role for Britain's youth

These things may partly reassure Mr Heseltine, but the silhouette of those tall romantic masts and square sails still could prove a sticking-point. It did for the *Times* reader who, when we first floated the idea, demanded that the Queen should have a state-of-the-art aluminium trimaran, "a Concorde on water". Fair point: but these futuristic shapes have a way of looking horribly dated within ten years. When the first *Britannia* was built, it was not on contemporary 1950s lines but on those of the 1930s: that is why she is such a classic and still draws gasps all over the world. A Concorde trimaran would soon draw titters, like the first-series model of the Starship Enterprise.

But why go right back to the age of sail? The Cadland consortium offers several reasons, the least of which is that frankly, a £63-million motorboat is not very impressive next to a superyacht, but a tall ship dominates any harbour (the Italian presidential yacht, far smaller, does it with great panache). Another small reason is that those who study shipping are convinced that over the next few decades some use of modern sail will return on ocean routes, simply because of fuel costs. Sail is not yet obsolete.

The main reason which should sway the Cabinet is quite different. A sailing ship needs people. A lot of people, working together with discipline and in harmony. The ship could motor anywhere, in emergency; its security has been designed by a Rear-Admiral, David Bawtree, who advises the Home Office. In those depressingly modern ways it should be well up to snuff.

But to man its yardarms and haul its lines it would need more than technology. It would need the nation's and the Commonwealth's youth. It would be manned around the year by 180 "Queen's Cadets" from every background imaginable. These boys and girls, 3,500 of them a year, would have graduated through our rich network of sail training ships, would serve a short period aboard, and never forget it.

Nor would onlookers. We would be showing the world (and ourselves) that the wealth and hope of the nation lies not only in its industry and commerce, in the banks which financed the ship and the salesmen who use it, but in its next generation. It would demonstrate that the Queen — inheritress of the most ancient, pompous and encrusted traditions — rejoices in her young crew and trusts them as she trusts the fibre-reinforced deck beneath her feet and the British computers on the bridge.

That, not any "heritage" prettiness, is the point of a sailing Royal Yacht. That is the synthesis between old technology and new, between our history and the nation we want to be. It is conservative and socialist, ancient and modern, royal and democratic. It is a happy idea. Give it a chance.

Angel dust-up

THE BIGGEST names in theatre will be jostling for space at Sir Robert Stephens's memorial service in St James's, Piccadilly, later this month. But there will be one notable absentee: Dame Maggie Smith. Sir Robert's third wife, has said she cannot attend; she will be "on holiday".

Suggestions that she is boycotting the event because Sir Robert's widow, the actress Patricia Quinn, plans to invite the sweaty pop singer Meat Loaf to perform at the ceremony are denied by her thespian friends. (Sir Robert believed that Meat Loaf, who secured his place in British hearts with his nerve-jangler *Bat Out of Hell*, had the voice of an angel.)

Patricia confirms, however, that the Dame has sent her regrets. "I said she could do anything she liked at the ceremony — perform, or give a talk or anything," she says. "But she replied that she was going to be on holiday."

Dame Maggie's absence will be noted, although there are hopes of a lesser-known actor attending. The Prince of Wales, who played Prince Hal from *Henry IV Part I* with Sir Robert for a recording of Shakespeare's classics, asked Patricia Quinn to join him with friends such as Stephen Fry and Tom Stoppard at Sandringham for a recent weekend. And I've no doubt that, in return, he has received his invitation to the service.



Early days: Maggie and Robert

● *Camilla Parker Bowles is said to be spending Easter in Portugal as a guest of the Marquess of Douro, son of the Duke of Wellington. Meals could be tricky — a friend of mine who stayed there was served up a local speciality: fried garlic and orange peel for breakfast.*

Sounding off

DIFFICULT though it has been to pin this story down, I feel obliged to share what I have been told about Sundej Panti, yoga instructor. Panti, 47, was in Madrid recently taking part in a conference titled Controlling the Temper. He had just assumed an advanced yoga position, his legs behind his head, when Nature's trumpet sounded.

The suppressed giggles from the audience proved too much for the warrior in Panti. Unknotting himself, he flew into the crowd. "All hell broke loose," said an observer. "Panti went bananas, shouting 'control is all' and then everyone else joined in." Seventeen delegates to the conference were arrested.

Wilson's secret

NEW YORK churchgoers over the Easter weekend were let in on an intriguing disclosure about British political history in the 1960s: Harold Wilson secretly encouraged the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, to call for force to be used against UDI supporters in Rhodesia, even though he knew that his Cabinet had already decided against it.

As soon as the Archbishop made his controversial speech, media-led thunderclaps erupted over Lambeth Palace and Ramsey was lacerated in political circles. There was little in the way of support from Wilson's Downing Street.

Canon John Andrew, a former chaplain to Ramsey, told his congregation on Good Friday at St Thomas's church on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue that the speech was made at Wilson's bidding. "Now he is dead I can say this," he said, seemingly moved to anger. "Harold Wilson telephoned Michael Ramsey the night before the speech and encouraged him to make those remarks. I took the call." Ben Pimlott, Wilson's biographer, did not know of the PM's involvement: "But it sounds typical of Downing Street at the time — to have Wilson speaking with a forked tongue."

● *Reports yesterday of the Queen's exclamation "Bloody fire", on seeing the blaze which sent polo ponies stampeding over the weekend, brings to mind the experience of a recent visitor to Windsor Castle. Meeting the Queen as she perused the newspapers before breakfast, he noticed that she was reading a story headlined "Queen Furious about Charles". Spotting her guest, Her Majesty looked up and sighed, "Well, I see I'm furious again."*



"The more you look at it, the more it looks like 'Tony'"

Eton strut

BRITAIN'S well-born young women are already well represented among top fashion models by the likes of Stella Tennant, granddaughter of the Duke of Devonshire, and Honor Fraser, sister of Lord Lovat. Now catwalk life beckons for one of the boys.

William Sinclair, 24, grandson of Sir Archibald Sinclair, Air Minister during the Second World War, and cousin of Lord Thurso, has been snapped up to model for Versace. A scout for the American photographer Bruce Weber spotted Sinclair while staying at 11 Cadogan Gardens, the elegant Chelsea hotel where he is a manager.

Though one of the finest players of the Wall Game in his generation at Eton, Sinclair was sceptical initially. He was won over when promised that he would be working with top supermodels, not least Kate Moss. "I thought I might as well give in at that point," he says. Sinclair's modelling career, however, has already got off to one false start. Last year he was asked to star in a campaign for Hugo Boss by a mink-clad Ethiopian woman in a Sloane Square bar. Sadly, the offer came to nothing.



William Sinclair: catwalk daze

P·H·S

THE TEST FOR TEACHERS

Standards depend on tests, inspection and traditional methods

Anxious parents unsettled by evidence which suggests that standards in written English among teenagers have dropped since 1980 need look no further than Cardiff for one of the principal causes. The delegates to the National Union of Teachers' conference meeting there exemplify the worst elements of their profession. For most parents the NUT's absorption in agitprop is as anachronistic as it is alienating but the more damaging hangover from the past, which influences teachers well beyond the NUT's membership, is the persistent attachment to progressive teaching methods.

The damage wreaked by current teaching practice is uncomfortably exposed by the comparative study of O-level scripts from the 1980s and GCSE submissions from the 1990s undertaken by the Cambridge University Local Examinations Syndicate. Pupils' grasp of spelling, grammar and punctuation has measurably worsened since 1980. The statistical sample, 30 boys and 30 girls at each grade, is not exhaustive but the evidence accumulated of a steady decline in standards is nevertheless persuasive. It also chimes with the experience of those whose job it is to sift school-leavers. Prospective employers and university admissions tutors have reported a growing inability to use appropriate English among many otherwise gifted students. It was trend noted by Sir Ron Dearing in his recent report on the education of 16 to 19-year-olds.

Uncomfortably for ministers, the decline in standards charted by the Cambridge study coincides with the Tories' term in office. The Conservatives cannot altogether escape responsibility for the deterioration. The decision to adopt the GCSE was meant to end the damaging divide between O level and CSE, increasing the number of school-leavers who had first-class qualifications without eroding quality. But ministers, anxious to boast of ever greater numbers clutching ever more qualifications, have been ineffective stewards of standards.

The problem has not been inadequate resources. Spending on education has risen, and continues to rise, handsomely. The problem, only addressed recently, has been inadequate external scrutiny of what goes on in classrooms. The combination of published test results and the vigorous efforts of Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, have ensured that a more detailed picture of educational achievement is now available. The connection between traditional teaching and educational excellence has become transparent. Motivated middle-class parents such as Harriet Harman and Cherie Blair have drawn the appropriate conclusions by sending their children to schools which make a virtue out of conservative classroom values.

The opposition to tests and inspection so vehemently expressed by the NUT's militant membership is the melancholy roar of the dinosaur scenting its own extinction. Progressive methods adopted for ideological reasons are being exposed as the enemy of achievement. The more extensive the examination of the effects of progressive teaching, the more comprehensive the failure appears and the more threatened its advocates feel. Since the Sixties the orthodoxy in college education departments has been opposed to the assertion of authority. Freedom of expression rather than clarity of meaning has been preferred. It has been considered inappropriate cultural imperialism to impose Standard English and enforce rules of grammar. The consequence is a generation of pupils sold short and a conference of teachers caught on the defensive.

It is neither patronising nor middle-class to insist on clear English and elegant expression. If talented pupils, from whatever background, are to make the most of their abilities, in any field, they will need to communicate confidently in formal language. Knowing the rules need not sap the vitality of their expression, nor cripple their creativity. Indeed, some of Britain's finest writers, from Burns to Hardy, are equally at home in couthy vernacular or the King's English. The best service that teachers could perform for the next generation of GCSE students is an acknowledgement that traditional teaching is the best preparation for the demands of the modern age.

THE WHITEWATER BOOK

There *were* some crooked men who *had* some crooked land

The citizens of Washington are eager, even greedy, consumers of political tracts. The most recent sensation in the American capital is *Blood Sport*, an analysis of business transactions conducted by the Clintons in the now-less-far-off-than-before days when the President was Governor of Arkansas and his wife was a partner in the state's Rose Law Firm.

The book has an odd history. The author, James B. Stewart, is a writer of repute who won a Pulitzer Prize for his investigation into Wall Street in the 1980s. The idea that he should turn to Whitewater came from Susan Thomases, a close confidante of Hillary Clinton. It was implied that if he took the commission, unique co-operation from the Clintons would follow. He did take the commission; yet the cooperation did not follow.

Mr Stewart's work has been greeted with enormous interest and multiple interpretation. As he found nothing that proves the Clintons knowingly engaged in illegal activities, it has been hailed by the White House as vindication. Critics, however, note that the evidence presented indicates everything short of an indictment. It is impossible to believe now that the Clintons have been properly forthcoming in previous statements on the affair. To describe Mrs Clinton, especially, as having been economical with the truth would be economical with that phrase.

The lack of a solid conclusion is more to do with the subject matter than the author's efforts. Of its type it is a masterful example. In more than 450 pages the complexities of the multiple land deals involving 230 acres of land in northwest Arkansas are outlined. But the lines between criminal conspiracy, ethical complicity and political culpability are just sufficiently blurred to keep the presidency alive.

The book will excite considerable attention when it is published here shortly. So it should. The cast of characters is strong and the roles played suit our expectations. The President comes over as an amiable but financially careless playboy: Mrs Clinton is the obsessed, scheming and driven figure, periodically brilliant and then naive. The Arkansas players from the bumbling Jim McDougal through to the tragic figure of Vince Foster come straight from central casting.

In the end what Mr Stewart outlines is a simple story. This was a get-rich-quick scheme that did not deliver riches. During the effort to extricate themselves from it the Clintons engaged in numerous actions that were, at best, ethically improper, which they frequently misrepresented and stonewalled as the press moved in. Mrs Clinton may have been smart enough to stay just the right side of the law; but both of them were stupid to have touched the project in the first place and even more stupid to conceal their affairs later. The original motive was money; the second motive was political survival.

Blood Sport certainly does not settle Whitewater nor is it likely to diminish interest in it, much to the discomfort of the Oval Office in an election year. Whether it will prove to be the final instalment will depend on the report of the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, due this autumn. Washington political enthusiasts can hardly wait. They are not alone.

FUNERAL BLUES

How to leave this world with a spring in your step

For the man whose elegant *Requiem* has been played at countless funerals since its composition, Giuseppe Verdi's last will was an unduly austere one: "I direct that I be given a modest funeral, either at sunrise or at sunset, with no pomp, no singing, no music." But the singularity of his preference is brought into ever sharper relief by the manner in which many modern British funerals are conducted. As we report today, singing and music are a funerary staple, and a well-loved friend, colleague or relative is nowadays seldom bid goodbye without a rousing contemporary tune of some sort at his funeral service.

This style of musical viaticum, however, tends to involve more than just the occasional eccentric rendering of *When the Saints Go Marchin' In* or Frank Sinatra's *My Way*. Increasingly, British funerals are raucous affairs, with tunes plucked straight from Music Television (MTV), Radio 1 and that long-running programme with the stamina of a Spanish bull, *Top of the Pops*. Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* — the last "you" stretched by the Soul Queen to lung-bursting length — is a frequent favourite, outranked in the funeral charts only by *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*. Simon and Garfunkel — now played more often at funerals than on MTV — are also widely heard, a sure sign of the passing of a generation.

This predilection for a pop farewell, which would seem to give new meaning to the phrase "to turn in one's grave", should be greeted with enthusiasm. There can be no rigid formula for the music at a funeral: after all, there are no real rules except that the deceased be dead. Requiem Masses by classical composers are but a matter for musical preference. Meatloaf, if he captures the *tristesse* of the assembled throng, is just as valid as Mozart — and who is to say that Fauré, and not Fairport Convention, is more the stuff of a burial?

Yet for all the modern musical incursions, the most moving funeral of a recently deceased public figure was that of John Smith, who was given a traditional Scottish kirk farewell: few who were present can have heard music more haunting than the solo rendition in Gaelic of the 23rd Psalm. But others, of less Scottish cut, may prefer John Coltrane, or *Guantanamera*, or something of Bob Dylanesque intensity like *Blowin' in the Wind* or *Just like a Woman*. In truth, the music one chooses for one's funeral is a little like making a selection of sounds for the great desert island in the sky: *Imagine there's no heaven, It's easy if you try . . .*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Water firms under pressure to reform

From Mr Anthony D. Jones

Sir, Graham Searjeant's article on competition in the water industry ("Water, water everywhere, but not much competition", Business, April 1) is not only well researched and well argued, it should be required reading for politicians of every hue. If the lessons of gas are there to be learnt, why should not those who would reform the water industry learn them?

What is not generally recognised is that a mechanism for competition in the bulk supply of water and the treatment of effluent does exist: the appointment, brokered by a third party, of a competing company to supply certain customers within an existing company's area. This enables the Director-General of Ofwat to determine a fair price for the supply of water services to a large site and to insist that these services are provided to the broker.

The latter then sells them on to the user at a small (and regulated) profit, with no change in infrastructure. The director-general is charged with the duty to facilitate competition in the industry and has the legal mechanism to provide it.

My company, which has made 11 of the brokered applications that the director-general is now considering, with many more in preparation, awaits the implementation of this policy with bated breath. None of Graham Searjeant's valid reservations about common carriage or responsibility for quality are involved.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY D. JONES
(Director), Enviro-Logic Ltd,
42-46 Weymouth Street, W1.
April 8.

From Mr B. M. Nonhebel

Sir, At a superficial level Mr Gummer's decision to open up the market for water supplies to competition, albeit only for the custom of large consumers (report, April 2), sounds welcome. However, his proposal raises serious questions.

If implementation means the movement of water over watersheds, as I presume it must, then river flows and water tables are likely to be affected. For instance, abstraction of water from the headwaters of the Thames basin to serve the catchment area of Southern Water might be expected to reduce amenity through direct and indirect effects on rivers already under stress, such as the Wey or the Mole.

What procedures, if any, is Mr Gummer proposing to introduce to limit such extra-market consequences?

Yours faithfully,
B. M. NONHEBEL,
Rowleys,
Shalden, Alton, Hampshire.
April 4.

Asthma costs

From the Chief Executive of the National Asthma Campaign

Sir, Attempts to reduce the soaring financial and human costs of asthma have been severely hit by today's rise in prescription charges to £5.50.

Most people with asthma need to take regular preventive medication; fewer attacks mean fewer hospitalisations and fewer deaths. Yet a new survey carried out for the National Asthma Campaign shows that one in eight people with asthma have on occasion been unable to afford all the medicines they have been prescribed.

The Government tells us that at least 80 per cent of the population qualify for free prescriptions. But many people on low incomes do not fall into any of the supported categories. Our survey has revealed that 50 per cent of the population has never heard of the "season ticket" for prescriptions, which is cost-effective for anyone using more than 14 prescriptions a year, and that the required lump sum payment of £78.40 for a year (£28.50 for four months) commonly puts it out of reach of those who need it most.

The pre-payment scheme should be vigorously promoted and put within the reach of those for whom the Government says it was designed by the introduction of a spread payment option.

Yours faithfully,
MELINDA LETTS,
Chief Executive,
National Asthma Campaign,
Providence House,
Providence Place, N1.
April 1.

Women prisoners

From Mr Colin J. Edwards

Sir, Your report of April 2 on conditions in Holloway prison will have appalled many of your readers.

Women inmates are widely believed to be more difficult than men. However, other establishments address this problem with greater success.

From my experience over the past five years of the female wings of HMP Winchester and HMP Brockhill, I can assure your readers that women prisoners in these jails are treated with dignity and respect at all times.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN J. EDWARDS
(Vice-Chairman, Board of Visitors, HMP Brockhill),
25 Wannerton Road,
Blakedown, Worcestershire.

Birth of a nation in the Caucasus

From Baroness Cox

Sir, Having visited Nagorno-Karabakh 27 times during the past four years, I greatly appreciated your report of April 3 on the birth of this "rebel Armenian enclave" as a new state.

I have seen the suffering of the Armenians of Karabakh at first hand, when they were blockaded, bombarded and besieged by Azerbaijan. I was in Stepanakert in 1992 when up to 400 Grad missiles rained down every day; and, later in the war, I witnessed merciless aerial bombardment of civilians by Azeri bombers.

The 150,000 Armenians of Karabakh have been defending their historic land against seven-million-strong Azerbaijan, assisted by Turkey. They now occupy a buffer zone in Azerbaijan and have generally been labelled "aggressors". This is unjust: they had no alternative, when the Azeris broke ceasefires, and continued to shell towns and villages.

The evidence shows that it is Azerbaijan which has been the primary aggressor, with its policy of systematic deportations in 1991, its blockade of Armenia and Karabakh, its first use of Grad rockets and its unilateral use of aerial bombardment of civilian targets and ground-to-air missiles, detonated over Stepanakert.

Azeri aggression preceded this war: Shusha, which you describe as "predominantly Azerbaijani", was a centre of Armenian culture until the 1920s, when the Azeris massacred and drove out the Armenians. Given all they have suffered at the hands of Azerbaijan, the Armenians of Karabakh can never again accept Azeri sovereignty, and should not be expected to do so.

These Armenians are suffering from the clash between the principles of territorial integrity and self-determination. But in this case, the territorial boundaries were drawn maliciously by Stalin: they have no integrity and the Armenians' case for self-determination is justified by a need for survival, underpinned by historical experience.

Yours faithfully,
CAROLINE COX,
House of Lords.
April 3.

China's neighbours

From the Editor of Fourth World Review

Sir, The Chinese Ambassador's declaration (letter, March 28) that Taiwan belongs to China is surely that of 19th-century colonialism.

If the people of Taiwan are not to determine their own future, whatever the proclivities of warlord-riven China's past empire-building imperialism, what is the force of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights?

Since China is a member of the UN the ambassador will doubtless be aware that in that covenant it is quite explicitly stated that "all peoples have the right of self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development".

As William Rees-Mogg makes very plain today ("The dragon lashes out"), the Chinese Government has enough to worry about without threatening world peace over an island 200 miles from its shores. We are not going to solve the problems of the 21st century by adopting postures which did no great credit to the 19th.

With respect,
JOHN PAPWORTH (Editor),
Fourth World Review,
24 Abercorn Place, NW8.
April 8.

From Mr Christopher F. Smith

Sir, The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China writes that "it is the sacred right of each and every sovereign state and a fundamental principle of international law to safeguard national unity and territorial integrity". If his argument is applied to Tibet — an independent state before it was invaded by the People's Republic — it does not stand scrutiny.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER F. SMITH,
4 North East Circus Place,
Edinburgh 3.

Creative engineering

From the Director General of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers

Sir, Sir Ron Dearing's proposals on education (letters, April 2) provide an opportunity for the professions, in particular engineering, to promote themselves as careers demanding both intellectual rigour and breadth of knowledge.

By choosing both A and AS levels, in technical and non-technical subjects, students will have greater variety in their career choices. Engineering, for example, will not be seen in terms of just "double maths, physics and chemistry", but will open up the possibility of languages and economics.

We need to stress to younger children the importance of expectations. Tell them they need just two A levels (or less) to go to university, and the majority will work solely to meet this requirement. Compare this to Singapore, where those seeking a professional career take four A levels as well as general studies and English or Mandarin. The skills level of the population must be raised to provide a solid basis for long-term national prosperity.

However, the new examinations for those not taking A levels are surely questionable in their current format. Multiple-choice answers do not bring out communication and creativity, which are the very characteristics that differentiate the best economies from the rest.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. PIKE,
Director General,
Institution of Mechanical Engineers,
1 Birdcage Walk, SW1.
April 6.

Active elderly

From Mr Richard Worsley

Sir, Mr Lucas Mellinger's suggestion (letter, April 4), in response to my letter of March 29, that people in their third age should "vacate" an overcrowded work scene is a dangerous one. It ignores:

the inability of most of them to afford to do so;

the benefits to the health of older people and thus the economy of maintaining an active life and postponing dependency on others;

their inability to blossom (as Mr Mellinger suggests) if they are excluded not only from work but also from learning and voluntary work simply on grounds of their age;

their potential contribution to the mounting costs of pensions and benefits for the growing numbers of retired people — which will otherwise fall more and more heavily on those at work.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD WORSLEY (Director),
Carnegie Third Age Programme,
3 Robert Street, WC2.

Watch the birdie

From Mr W. Henry Walton

Sir, Even on April 1, Matthew Parris should not mislead science students who have school examinations in the offing. Methane in the air does not cause either canaries or men to keel over unless it explodes.

After an explosion or fire in a mine canaries succumb much more rapidly than men to high levels of poisonous carbon monoxide (CO) in the "after-damp", thus giving miners timely warning to escape. But canaries can tolerate longer exposures to low concentrations of CO than can men.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. WALTON,
Ardlui,
Inveresk, Musselburgh, Lothian.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Saudi dissident

From Mr R. G. H. Morris

Sir, For people like myself who have lived and worked in the Middle and Far East, as well as the Indian subcontinent, neither your report of April 2 on Saudi pressure for Britain to expel the dissident Dr Muhammad al-Masari nor the BBC's *Panorama* on the previous evening recognises that most countries in the area do not have a culture anything like that of the West — nor do they wish to, yet.

When living in those countries (and in many Western countries, too) you have to recognise that you are a guest, and that if you break their laws you can rightly be penalised.

Tom King made the point clearly on *Panorama* that Dr Masari has not observed such rules as a guest in Britain. If he feels threatened by the prospect of living in the Caribbean, then he might feel more secure elsewhere. Either way, he should not use Britain as a base for causing dissension in other countries.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN MORRIS,
Rushford, Melling,
Carnforth, Lancashire.

From Mr B. J. M. Dally

Sir, Why on earth do we not just say to Dr Masari that he will be allowed to stay in this country as a political refugee provided that while he remains here he ceases his campaign against the Government of Saudi Arabia?

Such an arrangement would not prejudice our reputation as an asylum for genuine political refugees, but it should not put at risk valuable defence contracts nor cause the loss of thousands of jobs. Such a proposal was made by Tom King in the *Panorama* programme, which otherwise demonstrated, once again, that when national interests clash with a media "coup", those interests come a very poor second.

Yours faithfully,
B. J. M. DALLY,
Old Coastguard House,
48 Westfield Road,
Lymington, Hampshire.
April 2.

Meeting needs of the adopted child

From the Director of British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering

Sir, The focus on the welfare of the child in your leading article, "Children first" (March 29), is welcome; and social workers would applaud your emphasis on the right of children to receive "permanent love and affection". However, I would challenge the weight you give to the "loving intentions" of prospective adopters and the ease with which you condemn the attitude of many local authorities.

The vast majority of children for whom we are now seeking adoptive homes are not babies and have experienced much rejection and sadness in their short lives. Despite their yearning to be part of a "normal" family, they do not easily adjust to living with new parents and to the easy reciprocity of giving and receiving affection which is the foundation stone of making new relationships. A relatively high proportion of these intended adoptions do not survive, and far too many children return to public care and yet another attempt to find them that elusive permanence.

We cannot afford to take risks with these vulnerable children's lives, and social workers take very seriously their responsibility to assess the strengths of prospective adopters. It is understandable that disappointed applicants will often pinpoint only one of several reasons given to them for their rejection; and if the case attracts public attention, social workers are unable to explain the position more fully because of their duty of confidentiality.

Of course mistakes will occasionally be made, and I welcome both the chief inspector's emphasis on proper training and supervision for adoption workers and also the inclusion in the draft Bill of an independent complaints procedure. Please let us remember, however, that adoption is a service for couples who are sadly unable to have children of their own.

Yours sincerely,
FELICITY COLLIER,
Director, British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering,
Skyline House,
200 Union Street, SE1.
April 2.

From Mrs Jean Reid

Sir, I am saddened by the reference in your report (March 29) on the draft Bill on adoption to "children, particularly babies, available (*sic*) for adoption". When adoption is, or should be, a service to the child, I suggest we should write — and speak — of children needing adoptive homes.

The expression "available for adoption", which has continued to be used over the years, perpetuates the impression of adoption as being a service to would-be adopters. It is not, though the needs of the child may meet the needs of the parents; success will be due to the recognition of those mutual needs.

Yours truly,
JEAN REID,
4 Beeston Fields Drive,
Beeston, Nottinghamshire.
April 3.

Car curb dropped

From Mr N. G. Walker

Sir, Your report (later editions, April 2) that the Government is to drop its plans to curb car use for fear of offending voters depressingly confirms what I have believed for some time: that it regards such voters as ill-informed, unintelligent and selfish, and certainly unable to accept the unanswerable arguments put forward by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution.

Yours faithfully,
N. G. WALKER,
Stockwell Farm,
17 High Street, Haddenham,
Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.
April 3.

Life in the fast lane

From Mr David Oborn

Sir, Chris Ward reports in Interface (March 27) that Nokia has launched a "mobile communications device". He quotes a senior member of the company as saying: "People want to work online, independent of place, office hours and working days."

In support of this the executive cites his own experience of receiving a fax whilst skiing down an Austrian mountain, riding the chairlift back to the summit, and sending an e-mail reply.

Surely one of us has taken leave of his senses?

Yours sincerely,
D. OBORN,
Ellondale, Old Shaw Lane,
Swindon, Wiltshire.

Slow, slow, quick . . .

From Mr R. A. Miller

Sir, Now that Cranwell is to teach RAF recruits to waltz (report, April 8), how will they respond to the call-sign "Foxtrot. Tango. Over and Out"?

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN MILLER,
192 Devonport Road,
Stoke, Plymouth, Devon.
April 8.

COURT CIRCULAR

ST JAMES'S PALACE

April 8: The Prince of Wales today visited Fife and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant (the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine).

His Royal Highness this morning visited the Forth Bridge, North Queensferry, and was briefed on the current programme of repairs.

The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trust, afterwards visited the Foyer Project in the old West Bridge Mill, Bridge Street, Kirkcaldy, and saw an exhibition of the work of the Trust with young people in Fife.

His Royal Highness, President, Scottish Business in the Community, this afternoon visited the Tryst Community Centre, Abbeyview Estate, Dunfermline, and met members of the local community and business leaders who are setting up a programme of practical support for the estate.

The Prince of Wales later visited Culross and toured the Abbey Church and National Trust for Scotland properties, including the Study and Culross Palace.

Today's royal engagements

Prince Edward, as Patron of Haddo Arts Trust, will attend the first night of the Haddo House Choral and Operatic Society's 50th anniversary production of *Othello* at Haddo House Hall, Aberdeenshire, at 7.00.

Lord Cooke of Thorndon

The life barony conferred upon the Right Hon Sir Robin Brunskill Cooke, KBE, has been gazetted by the name, style and title of Baron Cooke of Thorndon, of Wellington in New Zealand and of Cambridge in the County of Cambridgeshire.

Olivier's gift to Leigh for auction

A painting Laurence Olivier gave to his wife Vivien Leigh as a love token two years after they married in 1940 is expected to sell for about £250,000 at Sotheby's in London on May 16.

Vivien Leigh was then at the height of her fame after winning an Oscar as Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With The Wind*. Olivier bought the picture, *A Farewell to Mayo* by Jack Butler Yeats, in a selling exhibition at the National Gallery.

Church of Scotland

Retirements

The Rev Jack Mitchell from Menzieshill, Dundee.

The Rev William Shackleton from Wellpark West, Greenock.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of King Charles II, Rotterdam, 1649; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, engineer, Portsmouth, 1806; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1821; Léon Blum, Prime Minister of France 1936-37 and 1938, Paris, 1872; Paul Robeson, singer and actor, Princeton, New Jersey, 1898; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63, London, 1906; Sir Robert Helpmann, ballet dancer and choreographer, Mount Gambia, South Australia, 1909.

DEATHS: King Edward IV, reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83, London, 1483; *Lorenzo de Medici (The Magnificent)*, Careggi, Italy, 1492; François Rabelais, writer and physician, Paris, 1553; Francis Bacon, Viscount St Albans, Lord Chancellor 1618-21, London, 1626; Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Pre-Raphaelite poet and painter, Birchington-on-Sea, Kent, 1882; Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress, Pau, France, 1940; Dr C.E.M. Joad, civil servant, author and controversialist, Hampstead, 1953; Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, Phoenix, Arizona, 1959.

General Robert E. Lee capitulated to General Grant at Appomattax Court House, *Virginia, 1865*.

The Hudson Bay Company ceded its territory to Canada, 1896.

Germany invaded Denmark and Norway, 1940.

Today's birthdays

Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 39; Lord Justice Simon Brown, 59; Mr Eric Clarke, MP, 63; Sir Brian Cubbon, civil servant, 68; Lord Deramore, 85; Mr Iain Duncan Smith, MP, 42; the Most Rev Domenico Enrici, former Apostolic Nuncio, 87; Mr Robson Fisher, former Headmaster, Bryanston School, 75; Lord Fitt, 70; Viscount Gage, 62; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 55.

Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Lord-Lieutenant of East Lothian, 70; Mr Roger Harrison, chairman, Toynbee Hall, 63; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University, 70; Mr Eric Illsley, MP, 41; Mr Tom Jackson, trade unionist, 71; the Hon Bernard Jenkin, MP, 37; Mr Neil Jenkins, tenor, 51; Mr Alan Knott, cricketer, 50; Mr Tom Lehrer, lecturer and songwriter, 68; Mr Martin Margiela, fashion designer, 42; Mr Peter Moores, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation, 64; Mr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 79; Sir Michael Ogden, QC, 70; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 74; Mr Carl Perkins, rock singer and guitarist, 64; Sir Michael Richardson, former chairman, Smith New Court, 71; Professor K.G. Robbins, senior Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, 56; Mr Martin Rogers, former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham, 65; Miss Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 59; Mr Michael Somare, CH, first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 60; Professor D.M. Walker, QC, 76; Mr B.H. Weston, former chairman, Manweb, 66; Mr Frank Yardley, racehorse trainer, 53; Miss Frieda Young, diplomat, 83; Sir Richard Young, industrialist, 82.

TONY WHITE



Patricia Restall of High Pitfold, Hindhead, Surrey, driving out in fine style through Battersea Park yesterday

On parade in the park

BIG crowds watched as the London Harness Horse Parade yesterday celebrated its return to Battersea Park with a perfect day. The parade, an amalgamation of the London Cart Horse Parade and the London Van Horse Parade, came back last year to Battersea where the first cart horse parade was held on Whit Monday, 1885. The van horse parade started in 1904 and had a record number of exhibits — 1,259 — in 1914. For many years both parades were held in Regent's Park. After the Second World War entries declined and the parades amalgamated in 1966. Horses, ponies, owners and drivers turned out in good numbers yesterday.



Rowena McDermott takes the reins of Dolly and Violet, two percherons, pulling a Shand Mason steam fire engine built for Lord Shaftesbury in 1908

Church news

Appointments

Canon Trevor McCabe, Vicar, Manaccan w St Anthony-in-Meneage and St Martin-in-Meneage (Truro): to be Archdeacon of Cornwall, same diocese.

The Very Rev Robert Jeffery, Dean of Worcester, is to be Canon Residentiary and Sub-Dean of the Cathedral Church of Christ Church, Oxford, succeeding the Right Rev Ronald Gordon, who resigns in September 1996.

The Very Rev Trevor Beeson, formerly Dean of Winchester: to be Dean Emeritus.

The Rev Malcolm Bowers, Vicar, St Blazey: to be *also* Rural Dean of St Austell (Truro).

The Rev Simon Burton-Jones, Curate, St Peter, Darwen w Hoddlesden (Blackburn): to be Curate, Biggin Hill (Rochester).

The Rev George Fleming, Vicar, St Bartholomew, Holmer w St Mary Magdalene, Huntington (Hereford): to be Priest-in-charge, St Peter, Worfield, same diocese.

The Rev Paul Foster, Curate, New Clee (Lincoln): to be Priest-in-charge, Aldington w Bonnington and Bilsington (Canterbury).

The Rev Jacqueline Fox, Senior Further Education Officer for the diocese of London: to be Rector, St Mary's, Acton, same diocese.

Canon Peter Goodridge, Director of Education for the diocese of Truro: to be *also* Residentiary Canon Librarian at the Cathedral of St Mary, Truro.

Prebendary Tim Gouldstone, Director of Lay Training and Priest-in-charge, Lamorran and Merther and St Michael, Penkivel (Truro): to be *also* Rural Dean of Powder.

The Rev Victor Howlett, Hon Curate, St Matthew w St Nathanael, Kingsdown, and St Michael and All Angels, Bishopston: to be Curate of that benefice and the parish of Greater Corsham (Bristol).

The Rev Peter Law, Vicar, Chineham, Christ Church (Winchester): to be Vicar, Luton, St Hugh, Lewsey (St Albans).

The Rev Stephen Mather, Team Vicar, St Nicholas, Sutton: to be Vicar, St John the Evangelist, Abram, and St James and Elizabeth, Bickershaw (Liverpool).

The Rev Brian McQuillen, Vicar, Gloucester, St George (Gloucester): to be Vicar, St Martin w East and West Looe (Truro).

The Rev Kevin O'Donnell, permission to officiate, diocese Oxford: to be Chaplain at Heathfield School, Ascot, same diocese.

The Rev Richard Peckham, Vicar, Ilfracombe Team Ministry: to be Vicar, Sid Valley Team Ministry (Exeter).

The Rev Colin Pope, Vicar, St Luke, Orrell: to be Vicar, Emmanuel, Southport (Liverpool).

The Rev David Pritchard, Vicar, Marcham w Garford and Rural Dean of Abingdon: to be Rector, St Mary's, Henley on Thames (Oxford).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Harold Coddrington-Clarke, Vicar, St John, Blindley Heath (Southwark): to retire October 23.

The Rev Thomas Collett-White, Priest-in-charge, Clerkenwell St James (London): to resign August 13.

The Rev Norman Davies, Vicar, St Mark w St Margaret, Plumstead (Southwark): to retire May 1.

Canon Jeremy Harrold, Vicar, and Rural Dean of Stowmarket, and an Honorary Canon of St Edmundsbury Cathedral (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to retire October 1.

The Rev Frank Potter, Priest-in-charge, Badwell Ash (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich): to retire September 30.

University news

Reading

New research grants and contracts accepted by the members of the departments named include the following:

Dr A Basu (Economics), £86,590 from the Economic and Social Research Council — South Asian entrepreneurship in Britain: determinants and dynamics.

Professor G M Megson (Computer Science), £116,317 from the EPSRC — systolic and regular array composition environment (Saracen).

Professor M J Baines (Mathematics), £141,260 from the EPSRC — multi dimensional upwinding and grid adaptation for conservation laws at the ICFD.

Dr B L Evans (Physics), £73,444 from the EPSRC — a regular array of nanometre sized magnetic particles and its role in thin film magneto electronic devices.

Professor G N Fisher (Construction Management & Engineering), £119,112 from the EPSRC — a clients' project definition tool.

Dr J P Wann (Psychology), £245,230 from the EPSRC — level of detail in interactive 3D environments to enable effective database traversal.

Professor K A Browning and Professor A J Thorpe (Meteorology), £108,257 from the NERC — deep tropopause folding and its relationship to severe weather.

Dr P J Valdes (Meteorology), £105,025 from the NERC - modelling climatic change during the last glacial/interglacial cycle.

From other bodies:

Professor F P McKenna (Psychology), £147,127 from the Automobile Association — men and women car drivers - their role in key accident factors.

Dr D C Mason (Environmental System Science Centre — Geography), £94,994 from the British National Space Centre — intertidal elevation models using satellite data.

Ms N Garnett (Construction Management & Engineering), £168,115 from the Department of the Environment — cost of ownership through integrated logistic support for construction.

Professor G N Fisher (Construction Management & Engineering), £126,082 from the Department of the Environment — Link (IDAC): a clients' project definition tool.

Mr C G Guy and Dr J R Miles (Engineering) with the Teaching Company Centre, £80,120 from the Department of Trade and Industry's Teaching Company Scheme.

Dr R Davies and Mr J G Brennan (Food Science and Technology) with the Teaching Company Centre, £152,960 from the Department of Trade and Industry's Teaching Company Scheme.

Professor A Swinbank (Agricultural Economics and Management), £86,080 from the European Commission — quality policy and consumer behaviour.

Professor M Coleman (Postgraduate Research Institute for Sedimentology), £171,200 from the European Commission — quantitative risked prediction of carbonate scale in HP/HT hostile hydrocarbon reservoirs for best practice production management.

Dr S A Booth (Economics), £138,334 from the European Commission Tempus (Tacis) — creation of model centre for agricultural enterprise and revisions of economics courses.

Dr J M Ames (Food Science and Technology), £71,592 from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food — Link agro-food quality: cooked potato aroma and texture.

Professor C J Garforth (Agricultural Extension and Rural Development), £85,000 from Natural Resources Institute — support to the Institute of Natural Resources for Institutional Development (Republic of South Africa).

Professor J D H Keatinge (Agriculture), £229,190 from the Overseas Development Administration — Hillsides systems programme - adaptability of cover crops.

Professor P G Whitehead (Geography), £73,500 from Thames Water Utilities Ltd — environmental impact studies on the River Kennet.

Dr J Bignell (English), £135,167 from the British Academy — BBC Wednesday Play - research fellowship.

Scottish Episcopal Church

Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Eleanor Morson has been ordained deacon at St Olaf's, Kirkwall. She takes up a non stipendiary post as Assistant Deacon at St Olaf's.

Appointments

Ian Malcolm Thompson, previously Bishop's Chaplain, Central Buchan Charge, is now Rector of St Mary's, Carden Place, Aberdeen.

Ruth Tait has been appointed to a short-term ministry at St Michael's Dufftown, from Easter.

A. Emsley Nimmo, Rector of St Margaret's, Gallowgate, Aberdeen, is now a Canon of St Andrew's Cathedral.

Kenneth Gordon, Rector of St Devenick's, Bieldside and Canon of St Andrew's Cathedral, has been elected Synod Clerk of the Diocese.

Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness

Ordination

Heather Susan Widdows has been ordained deacon at St Maelrubha's, Poolewe. She is appointed Honorary Assistant Deacon at St Maelrubha's.

Diocese of St Andrew, Dunkeld and Dunblane

Appointment

John Malcolm Richardson, Canon of St Ninian's Cathedral and previously Rector of St Mary's Newport-on-Tay, is now Rector of St John's, Forfar.

Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

Ordination

Alexander Montgomerie has been ordained priest in St Andrew's Ardrossan. Mr Montgomerie is now Honorary Assistant Curate (NS) at St Andrew's Irvine and St Andrew's Ardrossan.

Appointments

Jim Bale has been granted a warrant to officiate in the diocese (NS)

Allan G. Boyd, previously assistant priest at St John's Greenock, is now assistant priest (NS) at St Barnabas and Holy Trinity, Paisley.

Resignation

John Bain Penman, former curate at St Ninian's Pollockshields, has resigned and moved to Christ the Saviour, Ealing, Fulham Diocese.

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'Praise the Lord, for he is good; sing psalms to his name, for that is pleasing.' Psalm 135 : 3.

BIRTHS

BAXTER - On March 22nd, to Alison (née Green) and Jonathan, a daughter, Emily Charlotte Lund.

BICKERTON - To Juliet (née Penman) and David, at The Rosie Maternity Hospital, on 30th March 1996, a daughter, Martha Grace, a sister for Jessica.

CLARKE - Martin and Frances (née Layton), give thanks to God for the birth of their daughter Verity Sophie Layton, a sister for Eleanor on 26th March 1996.

CLARKE/ROWE - On 4th April 1996, to Sally and Steve, a daughter, Ella Pascale, a sister for Nina.

HARRIS - On March 14th 1996, at The Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Edinburgh, to Christina (Brooke) and Richard, a son, Samuel James Richard.

ROSS STEWART - *On Good Friday*, to Caroline (née Tuck) and Charles, a daughter Kirsty Ellen Forbes.

WADDINGTON - On 1st April, to Victoria (née Leighton) and Scott, a son, Dominic Edward James, a brother for Samuel.

DEATHS

ABEL-SMITH - Brian, Professor at London School of Economics, after a short illness, on 4th April 1996. Dear brother of Lionel and beloved by all his many friends and colleagues. Cremation at Charing Crematorium, near Ashford, Kent on Friday 12th April at 3.15 pm. Enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd., tel: (0171) 834-4624. Memorial Meeting in London to be announced later.

BUTLER - Edward Charles Leslie born 1909 in Portsmouth. Died on April 3rd, peacefully, after a short illness in hospital in Tiverton. Dear husband of Dorothy, good father and grandfather of Philip, Nick, Finn and Leo.

CHALKE - née Longman of North Leazel. On 6th April 1996, in Salisbury Hospital, after a short illness, Mary aged 57 years of Mere. Wife of David and mother of James, Josephine and Claire. Funeral Service at Mere Parish Church, on Friday 12th April at 2 pm. Flowers and enquiries to Hill & Son, Water Street, Mere, Wilts. Tel: (01747) 860 361.

CHRISTIE - On Saturday 6th April 1996, at the age of 96, Lucie Catherine, daughter of the late T.P. LeFanu of County Wicklow, Ireland, widow of J.T. Christie, sometime Head Master of Repton and Westminster and Principal of Jesus College, Oxford, mother of Catherine Porteous and Jane Darwin and much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral at Great Henny Church, near Sudbury, Suffolk, at 2.30 p.m. on Friday 12th April. Enquiries to H. Darke (01787) 461138.

DYSON - Peacefully in hospital on April 1st 1996, George aged 78 years. Most dearly loved husband of Mary of Hoyland, Barnsley. Loving father of Paul, Terence and Anthony. A very dear father-in-law and much loved and treasured grandpa. Also a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Reception Service into the Sacred Heart and St Helen Church on Wednesday April 10th at 7 pm. Requiem Mass on Thursday 11 am followed by interment in Kirk Balk Cemetery Hoyland. Family flowers only please. donations in lieu for Weston Park Hospital Cancer Research Unit c/o Eric Eyre & Son. The Funeral Home. High Green, Sheffield. tel: 0114-2848202.

ESSLEMONT - On March 29th Nancy Molly of Staines, Middlesex, died peacefully in Ashford Hospital. Funeral Service to be held at 10 am at Our Lady of the Rosary, Staines, followed by cremation 11.15 am at Hanworth Crematorium on Monday April 15th. Enquiries Lodge Bros., tel: (01784) 252226.

GODDARD-JACKSON - Frank, peacefully at home on 4th April 1996. Funeral service and interment at St Mary's Church, Duddington on Friday 12th April at 3:30pm.

MONTAGU DOUGLAS SCOTT - On 4th April, Rachel widow of Lord William Montagu Douglas Scott and daughter of 13th Earl of Home. Suddenly and peacefully at home. Funeral service at 12.30 on Wednesday, 10th April at Holy Trinity Church, Melrose. Cremation. Private, on Thursday.

MORRIS - On 8th April peacefully at home, Michael Freeborn aged 63 years. Beloved husband of Sue and loving father of Nicola Andrew, and Richard and a dear grandfather. Funeral Monday April 15th, at All Saints Church, Bilham, at 11.45 am followed by private cremation. No flowers please. Donations to Dr. A. Makepeace, Chilterns Hospital, London Road, Great Missenden, HP16 0EN for Chemotherapy Research.

MUNRO KERR - John Martine on Easter Sunday at Dumfries Infirmary, beloved husband of Delia, father of Alison and Simon, grandfather of Stephanie, Claudia and Tabatha and great-grandfather of Charlotte and Jamie. Funeral at Gatehouse, on Friday 12th April at 11.30. Family flowers only.

MURRANT - Geoffrey Noel Archer. On April 3rd after a courageous fight against cancer. Devoted husband of Eleanor (Pat), dearly loved father of Carol and adored grandfather of Kieron and Victoria. Funeral Service at All Saints Church, Grange Road, Eastbourne on Monday 15th April at 12 noon, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only but donations if desired to St Wilfrids Hospice, Eastbourne. Enquiries to Haine & Son Ltd., 19 South Street, Eastbourne 01323 727801.

ORTON - Muriel, widow of Ernest (ex K.A.R.) on 3rd April in Harare. Loving mother and grandmother of Teresa, Sandra and John and their families. Funeral in Harare followed by Memorial and interment of ashes in Ireland.

PEEL - On March 19th 1996, Elizabeth Mary (Betty) wife of George Frederick Peel. Cremation has taken place.

VAUGHAN - Mary, on 5th April, daughter of the late Mrs Hilda Vaughan of Blackladies. Funeral at St Mary's R.C. Church, Brewood on 15th April at 2.30pm. Family flowers only.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

PERFECT - Christopher T. died 8th April 1994 aged 47. *Forever loved and thought of* by his wife, son and mother.

BIRTHDAYS

WARRESSEKERA, Shirley. Dear Mum, Happy 50th Birthday. Wishing you health, wealth, happiness & God's choicest blessings. All our love Simone, Stuart & Stephen xxxxxxx

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANNUAL General Meeting of the Royal Naval Lay Readers Society will be held in the Home Club Portsmouth on Friday 10 May 1996 at 14.00 and will be preceded by a Eucharist in Saint Ann's Church HM Naval Base Portsmouth at 1200. Lunch will be served in the Home Club from 1300.

COUNTRY HOUSES Association has apartments for retired people. For information write to CHA (M93), Freepost, London, WC2B 6BR.

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OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR BRIAN ABEL-SMITH

Brian Abel-Smith, Professor of Social Administration at the LSE, 1965-91, died from cancer on April 4 aged 69. He was born on November 6, 1926.



BRIAN ABEL-SMITH was an authority on the National Health Service, and the welfare state in general. He had a considerable influence on the thinking of the Labour Party, both in and out of office, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s. He was a serious economic scholar, becoming the principal successor to Richard Titmuss at the LSE, working less intuitively than his mentor, but with technical skill and infectious energy. But he was no theoretical scholar. He believed in applying knowledge and research rigorously in a practical manner, and to this end devoted much of his time to advising politicians.

For thirty years Abel-Smith played a crucial role in developing social policy among moderate left-wing thinkers (he was a lifelong Fabian) and, through his friendship with moderate Conservatives such as Geoffrey Howe, on the Bow Group wing of the Conservatives. In the early 1950s he worked with Titmuss on the Guillebaud committee, set up to examine the economics of funding the NHS. This brought him to early prominence. The report represented a turning point in political thinking, both on how much should be spent on healthcare — a service for which demand is infinite — and on how one should measure expenditure. But the report was also an original academic contribution.

Brian Abel-Smith was the second son of Brigadier-General Lionel Abel-Smith, and his wife who came from Ulster. He was thus distantly connected to Sir Henry Abel-Smith, who was married to Queen Mary's niece, Lady May Cambridge. He was educated at Haileybury and Clare College, Cambridge, where he took second-class honours in both parts of the Economics Tripos, and became secretary of the Union Society.

Afterwards he served for three years from 1945 to 1948 in the Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry, and was ADC to General John Winterton, military governor of the British zone in Austria.

Tall and distinguished in appearance, with adequate means though not rich, Abel-Smith made a striking figure as a young man in the subfusc Labour Party of the early 1950s, to which he gave his allegiance early, partly because of his aversion to his public school. For personal reasons he declined to stand in 1959 for Hugh Dalton's seat in Bishop Auckland, which was his for the asking, preferring instead to work for Labour principally through the Fabian Society.

He was introduced by John Vaizey to Richard Titmuss, and served with the latter from 1953 to 1955 as assistant on the Guillebaud committee, looking into the finances of the NHS. He and Titmuss became friends, but they also complemented each other perfectly as scholars. Abel-Smith had a purely economic background, whereas Titmuss came from the insurance industry before being appointed to the chair of social administration at the LSE, and therefore also had practical knowledge of the way a business is run.

Abel-Smith collected the economic evidence for the inquiry and reached the conclusion that the NHS was taking a steadily declining share of the national income — a conclusion that took the wind out of the sails of the Conservative Government which had appointed the committee to seek savings.

He was awarded a Cambridge doctorate in 1955 for this pioneering work, which also represented the first attempt to apply national income accounting principles to social expenditure, and which he had conducted at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research. He then became a lecturer in Titmuss's department at the LSE, after Titmuss had taken over the department of social policy and administration.

Abel-Smith was his loyal lieutenant, becoming a Reader in 1961 and Professor in 1965. Titmuss died in harness in 1973, after which Abel-Smith became senior professor in the department, teaching on health policy and social security. He was a brilliant lecturer, always well prepared with a direct and sometimes dramatic manner, and a sense of fun. Though he was occasionally criticised for his frequent absences from professional duties at the LSE, his diligence in research and his attention to his research students won him many admirers in the department. In 1991 he officially retired, but he continued to work at the LSE, helping to set up a research unit called "LSE Health".

Over the years, Abel-Smith published a number of books and research monographs on matters of health and welfare in which he applied the national income techniques he had acquired at the National Institute to international comparisons of healthcare expenditure. This specialisation in the problems of healthcare administration led to his *A History of the Nursing Profession* (1960) — a book on which, unusually for him, he did not work with a collaborator.

With his Cambridge friend Peter Townsend he had meanwhile undertaken studies of poverty, which he defined as a proportion of the average wage — enlarging the concept so that it encompassed many who would not otherwise have been classified as poor. This work had an effect on Labour thinking, and in the course of this work Richard Crossman came to support the ideas of Titmuss, Townsend and Abel-Smith. Eventually, in the late 1960s, and as a result of this collaboration, they designed Labour's plans for national superannuation, retirement on half pay indexed for inflation.

Abel-Smith served for two periods, 1968-70 and 1974-78, as special adviser at the Department of Health and Social Security, and worked as fruitfully with Barbara Castle as he had done with Crossman. He was equally well-regarded by his Civil Service colleagues as he was by his political masters. Eventually these labours produced the National Superannuation Act 1975, with its profound effects on the national finances, and a significant change in the structure of the welfare state. From 1977 to 1980 he was adviser to the EEC Commissioner for Social Affairs.

Abel-Smith had a natural rapport with politicians, but after 1979 he advised the Labour Party much less. Instead he spent increasingly more time answering calls for advice from overseas governments, particularly in the Pacific Rim, the Third World and Latin America, on welfare and health service issues.

Abel-Smith was a sociable man and a good cook who gave convivial dinner parties for friends at his home in London. He also owned a house in Kent, and there he developed his interest in gardening (on his expeditions abroad he always made a point of visiting the best local gardens). He lived increasingly in the country, sharing his house with a horticultural friend. At one time a peerage was rumoured, and he would have been an ornament to the Upper House. But, disappointingly for his friends, he did not receive more formal recognition for his life's work. He never married.

MAJOR-GENERAL BRIAN DAUNT

Major-General Brian Daunt, CB, CBE, DSO, former General Officer Commanding British troops in Malta, died on March 18 aged 96. He was born on March 16, 1900.



BRIAN DAUNT'S love of the arts led him to develop a new method for instructing army staff — one which caught the attention of Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery. Instead of didactic briefings which sent everyone to sleep, Daunt scripted and produced top secret playlets, which were then enacted before those who needed to know. These included one based on chess which he used at Plymouth while he was a commandant of the Coastal Artillery School.

As news of Daunt's ingenuity spread through Whitehall, Montgomery commissioned a script on psychological warfare which Daunt helped to lay on at Paris before Nato staff. Monty, who was in the audience, flew a team over to Malta where Daunt was then based, to be briefed on the requirements. A team of interested Oxford dons also visited Daunt, who advised them on how to use drama for teaching purposes — and at which point to release the essential information.

Daunt had won his spurs as a man of action. Second-in-command of an artillery unit at Dunkirk, he went on to lead 142 Field Regiment (Royal Devon Yeomanry) through Italy — taking over after its own colonel had been wounded. Though in peacetime a gentle man, Daunt could not resist personally scrapping with the enemy. He won his DSO at the Volturno River where, not for the first time, he seized a Tommy gun and blasted away at the Germans — an unusual role for an artillery CO.

He was promoted Brigadier and made Commander Royal Artillery (CRA) of Eighth Army's 1st Armoured Division after the division had been badly mauled while spearheading an attempted breakthrough from northeast Italy to the Balkans. He transferred later to the 10th Indian Division and was mentioned in dispatches before being posted to Greece at the end of the war.

But despite his fierce military career, Brian Daunt was a deeply compassionate man. He was the son of a doctor who had forsaken his family properties in Ireland to practise among the poor in London's Docklands. The young Brian was educated at Tonbridge School in Hastings where he first distinguished himself as an athlete, rowing and boxing for the school, before winning a place at the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

Commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1920, he was posted to India for the next ten years, patrolling the North-West Frontier with a mountain battery. He developed a great love of India, learning the frontier dialects so well that he could think in them. He spent many of his leaves trekking in the Himalayas, walking more than 10,000 miles during his time there. He also developed a great attachment to the mule, on whom the battery depended to drags its guns, and his article *In Praise Of Mules* was frequently published.

After retiring from the Army as GOC Malta in 1957, Daunt became controller of the home department of the British Red Cross, 1957-66, and for a while also ran the Star and Garter Home at Richmond, Surrey.

A tall, slim, good-looking man, he was known as the general who never raised his voice. A slight elevation of his eyebrow was sufficient to denote his extreme displeasure.

In 1938 he married Margaret Balfour, a singer (and descendant of Robert Louis Stevenson) who accompanied herself on the Celtic harp. They shared a great love of music and drama and spent much of his retirement together visiting theatres and concert halls in London and Oxford. At the age of 93 he accompanied her to India where she gave a series of recitals, although he was by then almost totally deaf — a legacy of a thunder of guns during the war.

Brian Daunt is survived by her and their two daughters. Their only son was killed at the age of five.

PETER BAER

Peter Baer, printmaker and painter, died on March 22 aged 71. He was born on March 28, 1924.



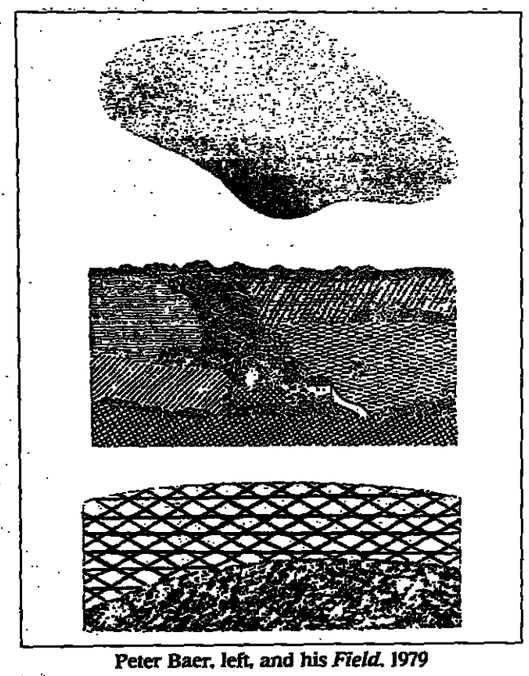
PETER BAER was an artist and teacher who worked with Barbara Hepworth, among other artists, on lithographs of their work. He also made some fine original prints of his own.

For the best of these, in the 1970s, he drew inspiration from some unlikely sources. Having recently moved to north London, he had become fascinated with the urban landscape around him — the residential streets, allotments, the main arterial roads and forlorn areas of wasteland. His series of prints during that decade contained fluid lines and shapes in which foreground, background and central subject are divided into distinct areas, and separated by white blocks of space. He liked to use in these prints objects such as wire meshing which he had found in his rambles.

Baer always had a slightly tortured attitude to life, for which painting provided therapy and relief, and for which his uprooted childhood provided some explanation. Peter Albert Bernhard Baer was born in Berlin to a wealthy Jewish family who owned their own furniture emporium. He was sent to boarding school in Spain until the Civil War broke out (he loved Spain, and as a man insisted on taking his family there every summer). With war looming in Europe, he joined his parents who had fled to Britain, but after the outbreak of war was interned as an enemy alien. Later he worked as a draughtsman in a munitions factory.

After the war he mentally cut himself adrift from his German and Jewish upbringing, and reinvented himself. He enrolled in the Central School of Arts and Crafts, where his paintings were criticised for being too uncommercial (he never improved much in this department): for one examination he submitted a huge, charcoal-drawn telephone. His early drawings were intense, expressionistic works but not many of them were seen because Baer, in a fit of self-deprecation, decided to burn a good deal. Other canvases which were not quite right were scraped clean or hidden under the bed.

Their subject matter was social-realist in tone: a small blue car parked outside a church in France; two people holding hands and walking up a hill; a workman pushing a bicycle. Baer knew all about bicycles at the time. He was earning a precarious living as a lamplighter, and was forced to carry his ladder around on a bicycle.



Peter Baer, left, and his *Field*, 1979

John Berger, writing for the *New Statesman*, reviewed his paintings very favourably in the 1950s. But Baer was not earning a living from them, and decided on a more practical course of action. He had become interested in etching from his friendship with Birgit Skiold, who ran a print workshop in Charlotte Street. This led, in 1959, to his being taken into the Curwen Studio, a subsidiary of Curwen Press, which was being run by Stanley Jones (first in the East End, later in Midford Place, off Tottenham Court Road). Here Baer learnt from scratch all the arcane techniques of lithography and etching. He had always had a gift for drawing and monochrome work, so printmaking suited him admirably, and later he expanded his work to colour prints.

The Curwen Studio provided specialist lithographic facilities for artists wanting to work on plate or stone, and to have editions of their work printed. Barbara Hepworth, John Piper and Henry Moore were among the artists who came to Baer with ideas, which he helped to translate into reality. He supplied the technical expertise, and slaved over the proofs until they were just what the artist wanted. Initially he handprinted these himself, but later the studio invested in a 1923 lithographic press, which allowed Baer to concentrate on the more rewarding aspects of the job — mulling over ideas with the artists, and proofing.

In 1970 Baer took up a full-time teaching post at the Hammersmith School of Art, which later became subsumed into the Chelsea College of Art and Design. But for the past decade or so he started to turn more and more to his first love of painting, and as he gradually retired from teaching in the 1980s, so he began to paint canvases which were still recognisably urban landscapes, but which were increasingly abstract and charged with colour. He held regular exhibitions, many of them at the Ben Uri Art Gallery.

Baer was an unworldly man, often naive, but passionate about his painting, and he was almost ill on those days on which he could not paint. The idea of a public holiday when he had to stop work, such as Christmas, was anathema to him.

His first early marriage, to Sigrid, ended in amicable divorce. He is survived by Iris, his second wife whom he married in 1968, and by a son and a stepson from that marriage.

THE REV ARTHUR MORTON

The Rev Arthur Morton, director of the NSPCC, 1954-79, died on March 25 aged 80. He was born on June 29, 1915.



WITH courage and commitment Arthur Morton faced the raw truth of a society which, despite the burgeoning comforts of modern life, produced family breakdown on an alarming scale, and with it the inevitable suffering of children. When, as director of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, he co-authored a history of the society, *This Is Your Child*, he wrote in the opening paragraph: "This book deals with terrible things. It is written about one of the darkest aspects of our civilisation. Those who find themselves unable to contemplate tragic and often sordid facts are advised not to read it."

During nearly quarter of a century at the helm of the NSPCC, Morton witnessed some of the society's most difficult years. He was called upon to handle delicate negotiations and initiate important changes. The society's inspectors, when he first took over, were mainly ex-servicemen who, though devoted to their cause, were indifferently trained and meagrely paid. With the growth of social services they were increasingly enticed away by offers of better training and higher salaries. Morton fought to see the society's workers put on a more competitive professional basis. Facing formidable financial problems, with annual deficits forecast at around £100,000, he campaigned for and won a realistic level of government funding to help the society to set up training departments and offer competitive wages.

Morton was also the first to draw attention to the plight of battered babies, instigating pioneering research into the problem and, in 1974, setting up the National Advisory Centre on the Battered Child, followed by a number of special units. As an extension of this he outfaced public disbelief and revulsion and supported the first British research into the sexual abuse of children.

Morton battled against the recommendations of the 1960 Ingleby report that the NSPCC should lose its status as an Authorised Person to initiate proceedings in the juvenile courts. He travelled the country campaigning vigorously and as a result the Government decided not to proceed with the recommendation.

In 1961 Morton was appointed CBE and, in 1979, the year of his retirement, CVO.

Born in Bakewell, Derbyshire, Arthur Morton was educated at the Imperial Service College, Windsor, and at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he read History. From there he went on to train at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, and he was ordained in 1938.

After two years as a curate at St Catherine's in Neasden, he served for ten years as a chaplain with the Missions to Seamen in Manchester, where his toughness of character, tempered by a robust sense of humour and an enthusiasm for cricket, won him the trust of those with whom he worked. But it was in a rough world that he found himself and many of his painful experiences — including the hanging of one of his parishioners — served as preparation for the often harrowing career he was later to follow.

In 1951 he became assistant director of the NSPCC, and three years later, after the death of the Rev Wilton McCann, he was appointed to the directorship, a post in which he was to remain for nearly 25 years. During his time as director he became the public face of the NSPCC, appearing regularly on television and radio broadcasts. A mesmerising speaker, he was much in demand both in Britain and abroad, and travelled extensively, particularly to the United States.

Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, Morton retired prematurely in 1979. He spent his last years quietly at home with his wife Medora, to whom he had been married for 55 years when she died last year.

Arthur Morton is survived by his two daughters.

Latest wills

Lady Olga **Richardson**, of Abinger Common, Surrey, left estate valued at £2,389,584 net. She directed her trustees to offer her still life by Heda to the nation to offset inheritance tax, or if not accepted then to the National Art Collections Fund, and she further left £25,000 each to the Cancer Research Campaign, Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital, Church of England Pensions Board, Shaftesbury Society, Missionaries of Charity, Hospice Homecare, Surrey, Help the Hospices, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Age Concern, Save the Children Fund and Crisis; £20,000 each to the Royal School of Church Music, Queen Elizabeth Foundation for the Disabled and English Churches Housing Group; £15,000 each to Voluntary Service Overseas and Multiple Sclerosis Society; £10,000 each to the Abinger Hammer Village School, Historic Churches Preservation Trust, Samaritans, National Trust, Michael Burns Charitable Trust, Royal United Be...Vicent Association and the Surrey Gardens Trust; £5,000 each to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and RNIB, and £2,000 to the Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood of Mount Alvernia Convent, Guildford, in memory of her daughter Fay.

Other estates include (net, before tax):

Mrs Eileen Muriel **Colwell**, of Warsash, Hampshire ..... £2,539,573.

Mrs Winifred Alice **Cutler**, of Seaford, East Sussex ..... £709,378.

Mr Jan **Dominik**, of London W2 ..... £1,979,215.

Mr John Harold **Holt**, of Radcliffe, Greater Manchester ..... £566,281.

Mrs Marion **Kemp**, of Withernsea, North Humberside ..... £604,996.

Mr Subashchandra Gordanbhai **Patel**, of Hornchurch, Essex £558,859.

Mrs Lilian **Roberts**, of Blandford Forum, Dorset ..... £797,355.

Mr Sydney **Tuer**, of Hutton Bonville, North Yorkshire £1,140,280.

Henrietta **Wells**, of London NW3 ..... £928,262.

Mr Bertram **White**, of Chichester, West Sussex ..... £688,592.

Kathleen Alicia **Bassett**, of London SW7 ..... £890,523.

Mrs Christina Clara Jane **Caunce**, of Ormskirk, Lancashire £806,090.

Mr Percy Lloyd **Edmunds**, of Kilgetty, Dyfed ..... £941,533.

Eleanor Lydia **Fairburn**, of Formby, Merseyside ..... £1,017,208.

Mr Sidney Ronald **Fundell**, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire ..... £1,402,119.

Mr Harold Carl **Guggenheim**, retired chemical engineer, of Hatch End, Middlesex ..... £1,390,814.

Mrs Stefanie **Harben**, of London N20 ..... £2,051,997.

Mr Peter **Maddocks**, of Burton Lazars, Leicestershire ..... £803,468.

Mrs Joan **Porter**, of Droitwich, Worcester ..... £1,122,255.

Marion Lee **Tilley**, of Bewdley, Hereford and Worcester £1,257,078.

Mrs Yvonne **Walker**, of Solihull, West Midlands ..... £1,096,305.

Mrs Miriam Myra **Weisbrem** of London NW6 ..... £858,266.

Mrs Barbara Jeanette **Wise**, of London NW2 ..... £1,928,391

Hester Mary **Alington**, of Braintree, Essex ..... £1,036,724.

Mr John George **Cumberland**, of Elmesthorpe, Leicestershire £704,846.

Mr Hywel Thomas **Davies**, of Caerphilly, Mid Glamorgan £744,384.

Miss Ethel Imogen **Dix**, of Buckingham ..... £1,183,809.

Mr David Claude **Draper**, of Benfleet, Essex ..... £2,460,398.

Lady **Goring**, of Richmond, Surrey ..... £702,158.

Mr John Charles **Hooper**, of New Milton, Hampshire ..... £879,696.

Mr William Edward Carl **Malson**, of Holymoorside, Derbyshire £997,613.

Mrs Mary Joan **Oliver**, of Newtown Linford, Leicestershire £865,984.

Mrs Eleanor Dulcie **Parsons**, of Ashford, Kent ..... £795,422.

Mrs Diana Mary **Puckle**, of Stockbridge, Hampshire £790,255.

Mr Harry Anthony **Samuels**, of London NW1 ..... £823,797.

Mrs Joan Hilda **Swannick**, of Failand, Avon ..... £1,407,657.

Mrs Phyllis Mary **Caston**, of Thorpe St Andrew, Norfolk £604,454.

Alice Rees **Evans**, of Rhos on Sea, Clwyd £872,768

THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.

The Marriage of his Royal Highness the Prince of WALES, with her Serene Highness the Princess CAROLINE of BRUNSWICK, which has so long been delayed, from a variety of unforeseen incidents, was at length solemnised yesterday evening at the Chapel Royal, St James's.

Before six o'clock, all the avenues to the Palace were crowded with spectators, and it was with some difficulty the carriages could move along, although every possible precaution had been taken to keep the ranks clear. The avenues within the Palace had been very properly enclosed and manned, so as to render the passages as comfortable as possible. About six, the company who had Tickets, began to take their seats in the two Antichambers leading to the Drawing-room: but such was the concourse of the Nobility of both sexes who went to St James's, that many of the Company did not reach the Drawing-room till after the procession had passed to the Chapel.

The lateness of the hour at which the Drawing-room commenced, and the great number of visitors which attended it, renders it utterly impossible to give a list of the names of the visitors. It may naturally be supposed, that on such an occasion, and under such extreme anxiety as the Ladies have shewn to behold the lovely stranger lately arrived among us, every Peer and Peeress, their sons and daughters, the Privy Counsellors and their Ladies, the Bishops, and all those, in short, who were in town, and entitled to admission on this occasion, were present. The Nobility and Knights of the Bath were all dressed in the insignia of their respective orders: and such a brilliant shew of elegance and beauty was perhaps never beheld.

A little before six o'clock, their MAJESTIES, with the PRINCE and PRINCESS of WALES, and the rest of the Royal Family who had dined at the Queen's House, went from thence to their respective apartments in St James's, to dress. The PRINCE, on leaving the Queen's House, had a hearty shake of the hand from the KING, which brought tears into his eyes. HIS MAJESTY saluted the PRINCESS in the Hall, and then got into his carriage. The PRINCE, after seeing the PRINCESS home, went to Carlton House.

It was past nine o'clock before the procession began to move from the Drawing-Room towards the Chapel ...

The Archbishop of CANTERBURY read the whole of the marriage service with great minuteness and solemnity. On coming to that part of the service when it is asked, Who gives the bride in marriage? the KING advanced to the Princess and, taking her with both his hands, presented her with the strongest marks of satisfaction. On being asked, "Wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?" the Princess answered with great emphasis, "I will."—Her Royal Highness also followed the Archbishop in the reading of the oath with great distinctness and expression.

His Royal Highness also repeated the ceremony with great clearness and recollection, but, rising from his knees too soon, the Princess did the same, when the ARCHBISHOP stopped the service. The KING perceiving the dilemma, rose from his feet, and whispered the PRINCE, who kneeling again, the service was concluded ...

It was near a quarter before 12 o'clock before their MAJESTIES returned to Buckingham House, where a magnificent supper of 22 covers was provided in the Grand Saloon up stairs, for the Royal Family, and of which the STADTHOLDER and his Family also partook. The King handed the Queen up the staircase; the Prince his Royal Bride, who appeared very much fatigued with the weight of her dress, and in going up the staircase, had nigh fallen down. The Princesses and the Duchess of York looked extremely good-natured, and in excellent spirits ...

ON THIS DAY

April 9, 1795

A disastrous marriage. The future George IV was revolted by Caroline's vulgarity, flamboyance, obscene language and filthy appearance. They parted after a few months. Yet the King liked her, the public adored her and The Times *was her champion.*

NEWS

Left defeats NUT plan for reform

■ Militant teachers inflicted a devastating defeat on moderates trying to extend democracy in Britain's biggest teaching union when they threw out "one member, one vote" reforms limiting the powers of branches and the national conference.

Leaders of the National Union of Teachers had proposed automatic ballots on conference decisions in a package reminiscent of Tony Blair's "new Labour" reforms. But every element was voted down in a humiliating rebuff for Doug McAvoy, the general secretary..... **Page 1, 2**

Plastic bullets fired at rioting loyalists

■ Riot police opened fire with plastic bullets after loyalists in Belfast attacked the RUC with petrol bombs. In the most serious rioting since last summer an elderly woman had a heart attack as police clashed with 1,000 loyalists..... **Page 1**

Mackay visit

The Lord Chancellor is to make an unprecedented visit to Strasbourg next month to seek backing from other countries for curbs on the European Court of Human Rights..... **Page 1**

School terror

A primary school headmistress told of a campaign of intimidation, including arson, waged against her after she identified youths who broke into a teacher's car..... **Page 1**

Spelling problem

The decline in writing skills among teenagers detected in a new study has fuelled the debate among educationists about modern teaching methods..... **Page 2**

Blair welcome

Tony Blair's arrival in Washington later this week is generating more interest — and noticeably more positive coverage — in the US media than the Prime Minister's regular visits do..... **Page 2**

DNA heredity test

A Welsh car worker plans to apply to a court to exhume the body of a distinguished aristocrat for DNA testing in an attempt to prove that he is the man's illegitimate grandson..... **Page 3**

Brawl victim

A man aged 60 who collapsed as he tried to rescue his daughter from a roadside brawl died from a heart attack..... **Page 4**

Viscount farewell

One of the last three Vickers Viscount airliners is being prepared for a final trip from Heathrow, where the first of its type began commercial service more than 40 years ago..... **Page 6**

Millennium delay

The Vatican said that grandiose plans for celebrating the millennium in Rome in under four years were in "total disarray" because of delays..... **Page 7**

Brando outburst

Marlon Brando launched a bitter and unexpected attack on Jews in Hollywood, accusing them of exploiting ethnic stereotypes in films..... **Page 8**

Taxpayers' revolt

The failure of America to pay its billion-dollar debt to the United Nations has sparked a citizens' revolt..... **Page 8**

Civil war spreads

Fighting in Liberia between government troops and supporters of a warlord was spreading as thousands of people sought refuge in diplomatic compounds..... **Page 9**

Chinese Easter

The sound of voices singing *Jin Zhao Ji Du Zan Fu Sheng* ("Christ the Lord is risen today") echoed in the streets of Wenzhou, where a religious revival appears to be taking place in a city that saw some of the worst violence of Cultural Revolution..... **Page 9**

Modern funerals go with a swing

■ Pop songs and theme tunes are increasingly supplementing hymns at funerals. The trend is well established in churches as well as crematoriums, where one of the top ten tunes is *Smoke Gets in Your Eyes*. Other family favourites range from Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You* to the theme from the Australian soap opera *Home and Away*..... **Page 4**



PAUL McERLANE

Apprentice Boy marchers facing police during clashes in Belfast when demonstrators were refused entry to a nationalist area. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Wall Street woe: Shares in New York fell more than 100 points, prompting a temporary suspension of dealings. Traders were responding to buoyant US employment figures, released on Good Friday, that suggested interest rates were unlikely to be cut..... **Page 36**

China chance: Airbus Industrie is on the verge of selling nearly £1 billion of aircraft in China, guaranteeing large orders and jobs for British Aerospace..... **Page 36**

Blair's brief: Tony Blair will address US businessmen and meet Wall Street investment chiefs during a three-day visit..... **Page 36**

SFO returns: Showpiece fraud trials will return to the Old Bailey as part of the radical reform of the Serious Fraud Office..... **Page 36**

SPORT

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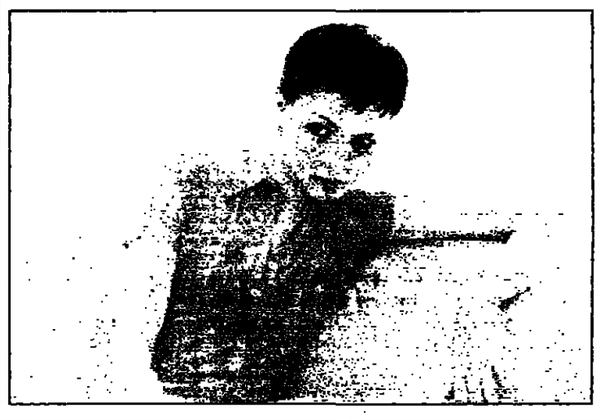
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■ INTERFACE
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Our biases, clearly, are against physician-assisted suicide. Our deeper conviction, however, is that this matter, touching the taproot of society, resides most properly inside the democratic workings of our legislative process, not with judge-made law

— Wall Street Journal

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The best service teachers could perform for the next generation of GCSE students is an acknowledgment that traditional teaching is the best preparation for the demands of the modern age. **Page 15**

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The Clintons may have been smart enough to stay just the right side of the law but they were pretty stupid to have touched the project in the first place..... **Page 15**

Funeral blues

The music one chooses for one's funeral is a little like making a selection for the great desert island in the sky..... **Page 15**

COMMENT

LIBBY PURVES

Wise politicians remember to read history. And, just occasionally, a national scheme comes up which brings together past and present for a confident, joyful leap into the future. The Government is facing one of these big ideas, in the proposed new Royal Yacht..... **Page 14**

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We are in the realm of politics, not science. The Germans and French attack Britain over BSE, primarily because it will not bow to their domination. If people thought logically, the overwhelming support for Mr Major's approach would translate into votes..... **Page 14**

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Religious beliefs can govern the most important parts of our inner life but they cannot reveal where to put the cross in the polling booth. The Christian message is too complex and challenging to be reduced to political propaganda..... **Page 14**

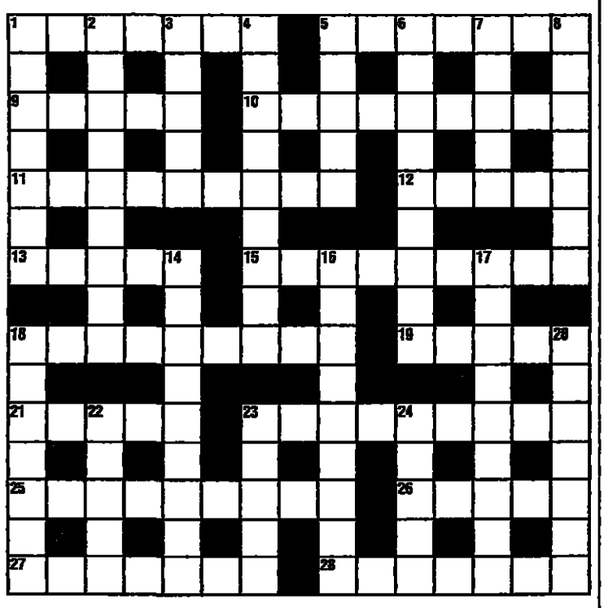
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10 Fellows return to inform on Club member (9).
11 Wild, unlike Bianca's sister (9).
12 Proportional representation? (5).
13 Longs to be nameless for long time (5).
15 A foreign hatred, without love, accepted by all (9).
18 Well spaced-out arrangement for sesame? (4,5).
19 Gets striker out in divided part of England (5).
21 Head in charge of subject (5).
23 Star gets best part, featured in Vincent's picture (9).
25 Unfurnished accommodation for girl going for a song (9).
26 Relief work amounted to nothing (5).
27 *Stretched and felt pain again?* (7).
28 Quiet rest for Hamlet, finally (7).

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1 Judge joining you, say, in a drink? Witness shouldn't do that! (7).
2 Trial for dark horse (9).
3 Pick conservative paper (5).
4 English given surprise about book, like *A passage to India* (9).
5 Bay leaf initially included as spice (5).
6 Girl supporting fierce person, one prominent in plot (5,4).
7 Mild expletive about female's plan (5).
8 Catches girls hiding ring (7).
14 Person behind the times showing reluctant diligence, perhaps (9).
16 Run into a football team, experts at scoring (9).
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18 Time to be involved in beginnings of organised Communist revolution? (7).
20 Silly goose accepts credit, noted skinflint (7).
22 Explorer put on a warm coat (5).
23 Offensively cutting item in second group of letters? (5).
24 Close pub (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,136

F	A	R	M	E	R		B	U	S	Y	B	O	D	Y
	R		O		E		R		I		A		O	
G	R	A	N	D	C	H	I	L	D		L	I	M	P
	O		O		N		E		E		L			
S	W	I	M	M	I	N	G		A	I	R	I	N	G
		A		L		A		R			I			
S	T	U	N				N	U	M	E	R	A	C	Y
	R		I		C		D		S		E		A	
H	E	C	A	T	O	M	B				V	I	N	E
	A				R		U		G		O			
O	S	T	L	E	R		Y	E	A	R	L	I	N	G
	U		E		I		S		M		T		I	
B	R	O	W		D	R	A	W	B	R	I	D	G	E
	E		I		O		L		O		N		H	
P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E		L	E	G	A	T	E

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouca,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin,S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts,Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.18 am — Sun sets: 7.48 pm

Moon sets 10.03 am — Moon rises 1.02 am

Last quarter tomorrow

London 7.48 pm to 6.15 am
Bristol 7.57 pm to 6.25 am
Edinburgh 8.08 pm to 6.20 am
Manchester 7.59 pm to 6.20 am
Penzance 8.07 pm to 6.39 am

DID YOU READ YOUR HOROSCOPE TODAY?
Then you are interested in what the future might bring. Like people who take out WPA's Health & Sickness Plan, cash when you need it, in sickness and in health.
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FREECALL 0500 41 42 43

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will be mostly dry with bright or sunny spells. There may be isolated fog patches at first in the South East. It will be warm in the east. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be generally dry with sunny spells, but southwest Scotland may be cloudier with patchy drizzle. Breezy.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N:** isolated mist and fog patches, then dry with sunny spells. Wind light south or southwest. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, N Ireland:** mostly dry, bright or sunny spells. Wind southerly, moderate or fresh. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth:** dry, sunny spells. Wind south or southwest, light to moderate. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **SW Scotland:** cloudy, patchy drizzle. Wind southerly, moderate to fresh. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Glasgow, Central Highlands, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney:** mostly dry. Wind southerly moderate to fresh. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **Shetland:** rain or drizzle, dying out. Wind south or southwest, moderate. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **Outlook:** dry start, rain spreading across all parts from the South West.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; m=misty; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.8	0.02	13	55	r	Littlehmptn	8.3	-	13	55	s
Anglesey	0.4	0.01	10	50	fg	London	5.9	-	15	59	s
Aviemore	4.9	0.01	14	57	b	Lowestoft	10.8	-	7	45	s
Belfast	3.5	0.01	16	61	b	Manchester	0.6	-	14	57	c
Birmingham	1.8	-	14	57	c	Margate	11.0	-	8	46	s
Bognor R	8.3	-	15	59	s	Minehead	11.1	-	11	52	s
Bournem'th	X	-	13	55	s	Morecambe	10.6	-	13	55	s
Bristol	-	0.01	13	55	c	Newcastle	1.9	-	13	55	c
Buxton	7.9	-	10	50	s	Newquay	0.3	-	X	X	c
Cardiff	1.2	0.02	12	54	r	Norwich	6.0	-	15	59	s
Colwyn Bay	10.7	-	12	54	s	Penzance	X	0.01	13	55	d
Eastbourne	8.1	-	10	50	s	Plymouth	X				
Edinburgh	3.8	0.01	16	61	s	Ross-o-wye	10.3	-	13	55	s
Eskdalemuir	-	0.09	8	46	r	Ryde	9.8	-	11	52	s
Exmouth	7.9	-	9	48	s	Salcombe	6.0	-	9	48	c
Falmouth	-	-	13	55	c	Salcombe	6.0	-	9	48	c
Fishguard	1.9	0.01	11	52	d	Sandown	7.5	-	10	50	b
Folkestone	10.6	-	10	50	s	Scarboro'	11.9	-	7	45	s
Glasgow	6.1	0.06	16	61	r	Shanklin	6.1	-	9	48	b
Guernsey	6.4	-	10	50	s	Shrewsbury	1.5	-	1559		
Hastings	10.0	-	11	52	s	Southport	10.6	-	13	55	s
Hayling I.	10.8	-	13	55	s	Southsea	10.4	-	13	55	s
Herne Bay	7.7	-	16	61	b	Stornoway	3.3	0.04	11	52	sh
Hove	8.7	-	11	52	b	Swanage	4.2	-	13	55	s
Hunstanton	12.0	-	8	48	s	Teignmouth		-	13	55	du
Isle of Man		0.01	10	50	m	Tiree	7.7	0.06	13	55	s
Jersey	7.9	-	10	50	s	Torquay	6.0	-	11	52	s
Kinloss	7.2	0.01	17	63	b	Tynemouth	10.8	-	6	43	b
Leeds	1.8	-	14	57	b	Ventnor	8.1	-	10	50	b
Leuchars	2.0	0.01	16	61	b	Weymouth	8.5	-	10	50	s

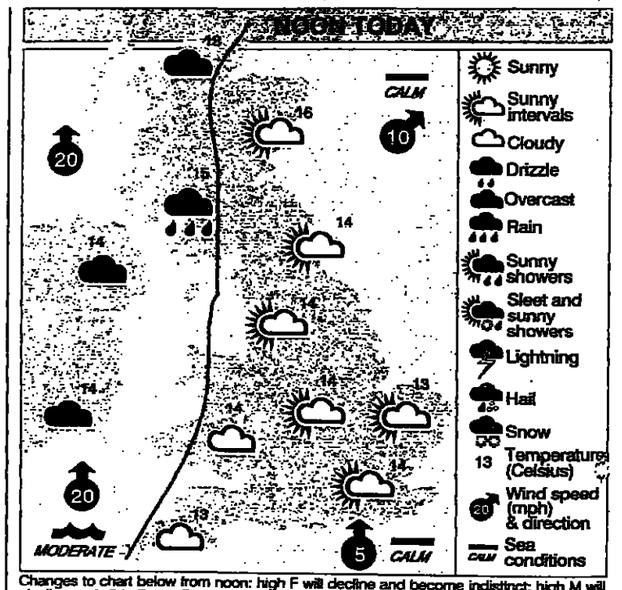
ABROAD

Ajaccio	15	59	f	Corfu	17	63	s	Madrid	16	61	c
Alicante	16	61	r	C'phagn	12	54	c	Majorca	17	63	f
Alex'dria	21	70	s	Dublin	11	52	c	Malaga	21	70	c
Algiers	18	64	f	Dubrovnik	17	63	f	Malta	19	66	s
Amst'dm	11	52	s	Faro	18	64	s	Melb'rne	16	61	f
Athens	17	63	c	Florence	18	64	s	Mexico C	21	70	s
B Aires	22	72	s	Frankfurt	16	61	s	Miami	24	75	c
Bahrain	24	75	s	Funchal	19	66	f	Milan	19	66	s
Bangkok	35	95	s	Geneva	15	59	s	Montreal	5	41	X
Barbados	29	84	f	Gibraltar	21	70	f	Moscow	10	50	s
Barcelona	16	61	s	Helsinki	10	50	s	Munich	11	52	s
Beirut	17	63	f	Hong K	23	73	c	N Delhi	34	93	s
Belgrade	16	61	s	Innsbruck	15	59	f	N York	4	39	r
Berlin	15	59	s	Istanbul	6	43	r	Naples	19	66	f
Bermuda	20	68	f	Jeddah	31	88	s	Nice	17	63	s
Biarritz	12	54	r	Jo'burg	19	66	f	Oslo	11	52	f
Bordeaux	16	61	s	Karachi	X			Perth	24	75	c
Brussels	10	50	c	L Angels	24	75	s	Peking	19	66	s
Budapst	17	63	s	L Palmas	21	70	s	Perth	24	75	s
Cairo	29	84	s	Le Tquet	7	45	f	Prague	15	59	c
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Lisbon	16	61	c	Reykjavik	7	45	r
Ch'church	28	82	s	Locarno	X			Rhodes	15	59	f
Chicago	3	37	s	Luxembg	16	61	c	Rio de J	32	90	s
Cologne	16	61	s	Luxor	35	95	s	Riyadh	32	90	s

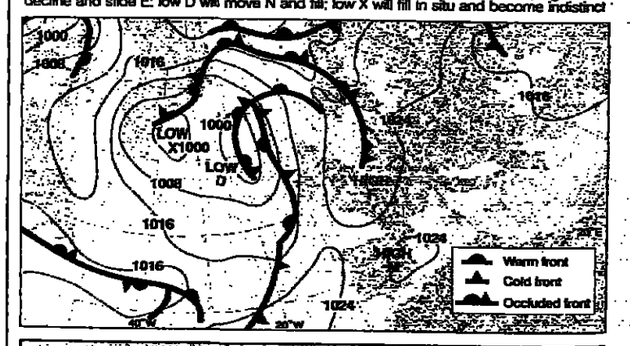
Rome	17	63	s								
S Fr'sco	16	61	s								
S Paulo	28	82	f								
Salzburg	11	52	s								
Santiago	24	75	s								
Seoul	12	54	c								
Sing'por	33	91	f								
St'kholm	13	55	s								
Strasb'rg	17	63	s								
Sydney	28	82	c								
Tangier	18	64	f								
Tel Aviv	22	72	s								
Tenerife	22	72	s								
Tokyo	15	59	s								
Toronto	0	32	sn								
Tunis	17	63	c								
Valencia	17	63	f								
Vanc'ver	16	61	f								
Venice	17	63	s								
Vienna	13	55	s								
Warsaw	14	57	s								
Wash'ton	11	52	f								
Wellington	25	77	s								
Zurich	16	59	s								

Temperatures at midday local time on Sunday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: high F will decline and become indistinct; high M will decline and slide E; low D will move N and fill; low X will fill in situ and become indistinct



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	5:11	6.8	5:33	6.5	Leith	6:04	5.1	6:34	5.1
Aberdeen	4:45	3.9	5:21	3.8	Liverpool	2:25	8.9	2:54	8.9
Avonmouth	10:34	12.4	10:54	12.1	Lowestoft	0:40	2.4	12:52	2.2
Belfast	2:13	3.0	2:57	3.3	Margate	3:11	4.5	3:28	4.3
Cardiff	10:19	11.0	10:41	10.7	Milford Haven	9:36	6.4	10:01	6.3
Devonport	9:12	5.0	9:28	5.0	Newquay	8:30	6.3	8:57	6.1
Dover	1:57	6.5	2:23	6.8	Oban	8:50	3.4	9:22	3.4
Dublin (N Wall)	2:47	3.9	3:26	3.8	Penzance	7:51	5.1	8:18	5.0
Falmouth	8:17	4.8	8:39	4.7	Portland	9:56	1.7	10:12	1.7
Greenock	3:35	3.3	4:09	3.3	Portsmouth	2:34	4.4	3:00	4.4
Harwich	2:52	3.6	3:18	3.7	Shoreham	2:13	5.9	2:40	6.8
Holyhead	1:25	5.3	1:53	5.0	Southampton	1:50	4.3	2:17	4.2
Hull (Albert Dj)	9:39	6.9	10:09	6.7	Swansea	9:40	8.7	10:05	8.5
Ilfracombe	9:15	8.6	9:41	8.4	Tees	7:09	4.9	7:40	4.9
King's Lynn	9:43	6.6	10:09	6.4	Walton-on-Naze	2:52	4.1	3:17	3.9

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Altnaharra, Highland, 15C (59F); lowest day max: Cromer, Norfolk, 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 0.03in; highest sunshine: Kinloss, Moray Firth, 12.4hr.

The outlook in Bermuda is heavenly.
For our 1996 brochure, call Bermuda Tourism on 01753 517 517 quoting ref: TWS or see your travel agent.

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هذا من الأصل

19



RUGBY LEAGUE

Leeds exposed by power play of St Helens



LAW 29

Help is on the way for the victims of noise



SMALL BUSINESS 31

Chocolates to make Belgians eat their hearts out

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 34, 35

13

THE TIMES

TUESDAY APRIL 9 1996

Career-threatening accident to Busst overshadows Manchester United's victory

Injury dispels Bank Holiday spirit

Manchester United..... 1
Coventry City 0

By Rob Hughes
Football Correspondent



The sickening moment when Busst, the Coventry City central defender, suffered a broken right leg in a challenge with Irwin, left, the Manchester United defender. Photograph: Ian Stewart

INEVITABLY, Eric Cantona won it and, inexorably, Manchester United moved on towards their second FA Carling Premiership and Cup double in three years ... but the whole relish of an Easter Monday game before 50,332 spectators, the biggest league crowd for nine years, had ebbed away after a horrifying injury after only 80 seconds which resulted in a compound fracture of the right leg for the Coventry City defender, David Busst. Three hours of surgery were needed last night, and it was still uncertain if the injury may have ended one of the unsung careers in the professional game.

It was one of those collisions that deeply affects even the hardest of professional careerists. Peter Schmeichel, United's Danish goalkeeper, who once before had seen bone protruding through the flesh, simply said at the end of the contest: "I cannot talk; if they asked me a question about that accident, I would break down." And indeed the very joy and the purpose of the match was deadened from the instant that Busst, stretching forward in hope of the fifth goal of his lifetime, collided with the similarly outstretched leg of Denis Irwin.

It had followed what turned out to be Coventry's most enlightening moment. From a corner on the right by Pickering, Whelan had glanced the ball with his head. Schmeichel had used the fullness of 6ft 4in frame to dive to his right and palm it down, and then, when Busst and Dublin went for it, when the goalkeeper pounced on it, came the fateful collision. It left the leg at a grotesque angle and so much blood on the pitch that it was nine minutes before the goal area could be swabbed clean and the game restarted.

Even in the stands, hearts pounded, but the eyes did not want to see. Busst, who came late to Coventry on a free transfer from the Birmingham non-league club, Moor Green, has never had the opportunity to earn a fortune at his game. He has played fewer than 50 games at senior level and, at 28, is one year younger than the unbroken tenure Coventry have enjoyed in the top division in English football: a tenure which, alas, like the player's livelihood, is threatened this morning.

Yet, as Alex Ferguson, the United manager, was to observe, it was Coventry who first picked up the threads of the game, it was Whelan who burst through United's offside trap and Schmeichel who, with a hint of reluctance, had to throw himself down near the same spot, just in front of his right-hand post, to smother Whelan's chance.

Slowly, gradually, the main man of the afternoon, Cantona, began to shape what was left of the game. At the outset the tricolours had outnumbered anything else against the slate-grey sky, and the Frenchman, lying deep to orchestrate United's rhythm because the surging presence of Keane was missing through suspension, did indeed become the catalyst of the show. But it remained tentative, and one reason why was that Cole has become more goal-maker than goalscorer since his £7 million transfer.

Two instances of this came before half-time. First, he spun away from Williams and, with wonderful vision, found Giggs, who stabbed at the chance from nine yards, straight at Ogrizovic. Moments later, when Cantona, of course, provided the perfect through-ball, Cole should have burst the net with his shot; instead he blazed the ball wastefully wide.

We knew what was coming, we simply did not know when. It was two minutes into the second half when Cantona scored his seventh goal in eight games, and another winner. He had restarted in an attacking position, pushed up to do what Cole could not. Giggs broke down the left, his cross was intercepted by Williams, who attempted to flick the ball clear with his heel. It spun up, Cole and Richardson raced for it, the ball ricocheted off Richardson, and there, seven yards out and seemingly in seven yards of space, was Cantona, scoring almost with nonchalance.

After Ferguson had cleared his throat from the "hateful" injury to an opposing player, he said: "Thank God, the chance fell to Ooh-ah. He panicked, didn't he! But I thought Eric was magnificent at times today."

Indeed he was, a player of so much technique and vision that he could stroll the field; and when Cantona stopped, for the final 20 minutes, United ebbed so badly that their manager conceded they could have thrown away the precious points. Instead of filling their boots with goals that may become crucial at the season's end, they had settled for a solitary gift, and in the final minute Richardson, trying desperately to give his club a lifeline, found himself eight yards from goal, the home defence statuesque. But he was off balance, he mis-hit his shot wide, and the import of it all is that Coventry may this time be going down, and United will be going all the way to the final championship shoot-out.

However, all of it became secondary to that deeply sickening feeling in the stomach that follows such an injury to a man who had done nothing to deserve such a fate.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, D May, G Neville, L Sharpe — D Beckham, N Butt, B McClair, R Giggs — E Cantona — A Cole
COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — A Pickering, D Busst (sub: W Boland, 2nd), L Dash, J Salako — P Telfer (sub: E Jess, 70), K Richardson, P Williams, P Ndlovu — D Dublin, N Whelan.
Referee: D Gallagher

Photograph 1
Rangers push for safety 20
Liverpool recover 21

Higgins blackballed with prized position in reach

By Phil Yates

NIGEL BOND did Stephen Hendry, his Team Sweater Shop stable-mate, an enormous favour by capturing his first world ranking event, after seven years as a snooker professional, by beating John Higgins 9-8 on the last black in a memorable British Open final at Plymouth yesterday.

Higgins was set to overhaul Hendry at the head of the provisional standings going into the Embassy world championship later this month when he established a commanding 69-0 lead in the deciding frame with only five reds, and therefore 67 points, available for Bond.

Higgins then dropped his guard. Instead of screwing back off a simple black for a choice of three easy reds, he chose to ignore obvious positional considerations.

He missed a tough red to a middle pocket and Bond eventually potted four reds, with four blacks, and laid a fiendish snooker behind the blue. Higgins could not escape, Bond cleared to pink and, after getting the better of a tense tactical battle, potted it and clipped a courageous black across the top cushion.

"It was a pot you wouldn't go for under normal circumstances, but those weren't normal circumstances," Bond, who collected a first prize of £60,000, said. "When John was so far in front, I was resigned to defeat, but I was thrown a lifeline."

Higgins had found himself trailing 3-0 as Bond, responsible for the elimination of Hendry and Peter Ebdon, started the stronger. When Higgins left a free ball in the first frame, Bond cleared the colours to draw first blood. Breaks of 61 and 35 gave him the second and he edged the third on the black by a single point.

Having miscued on a reasonably straightforward blue to a middle pocket in that frame, which would have left Bond requiring snookers, Higgins exhibited his unshakable self-confidence by snatching the next for a vital foothold. Trailing 53-1, Higgins rolled in a risky long red to launch a 56 clearance to pink, before he added a tricky black after a short safety exchange.

That seemed to have instigated a perceptible shift in the balance of power, for Higgins put together a run of 47 in the fifth, before jawing a red with the rest. Bond clinically fashioned a 79 clearance to lead 4-1, only for Higgins to claim the closing two frames of the session.

Higgins also accounted for the eighth with a 91 break, but Bond again showed his resilience, producing an emphatic response in the form of a run of 89 to regain the advantage at 5-4.

Even the 44 clearance to black from Higgins, initiated by a fluked red, that helped him to level at 6-6, failed to shatter Bond's resolve. After the next two frames had been shared, Bond defied the growing tension to construct a 122 clearance to lead 8-7. Higgins replied with contributions of 49 and 75 in the sixteenth frame before seeing virtually certain victory prised away.

Not since Jimmy White beat Cliff Thorburn 13-12 in the 1986 Mercantile Classic has a player prevailed in the deciding frame of a final after requiring a snooker.

FINAL: N Bond (Eng) bt J Higgins (Scot) 9-8. Frame scores (Bond first): 71-58, 96-4, 65-84, 53-64, 76-47, 18-72, 17-102, 0-91, 89-0, 30-80, 89-30, 55-58, 72-0, 0-97, 122-8, 8-128, 71-69.



Bond: first ranking title

Rivals threaten to expel England from five nations'

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

THE Rugby Football Union (RFU), harassed by its own clubs at home, came under pressure from its five nations' championship partners last night over its dealings with television companies. The four other unions are so annoyed at English attempts to negotiate on their own behalf, that they threaten the 1996 champions with expulsion from the 1997-98 championship.

The five nations' committee met at Heathrow, with Wales, Scotland, Ireland and France in militant mood. Within the past month, tenders have been invited for the screening of the five nations' championship (the present BBC contract concludes at the end of next season), but the four countries believe that England seek, once more, to dominate the financial debate.

Frustration already exists over the RFU's refusal to allow its leading clubs to participate in this season's embryonic European competition, a frustration shared by the clubs themselves, who hope today for a definitive statement over the structure for next season. England's leading clubs want a 12-team first division rather than ten, as at present, and which the RFU is understood to favour.

"The RFU used the same principle to give their clubs a year's moratorium to sort out professional rugby," Donald Kerr, the chairman of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Limited, said. "All we are asking is that the first division clubs get a similar opportunity. We think it would be desperately unfair on clubs to deny them the chance to get to grips with professional rugby next season in the top flight."

There must have been times this season when the RFU has felt the whole world was against it. In part, it is reaping the inheritance of its forebears, those who forced through the lion's share of the last television agreement on the basis of England's greater viewing population and, over a good many years, those who adopted an autocratic attitude to the organisation of the game.

Now, its best players and clubs demand to know where they stand in the new order, alongside a crisis of leadership within, created by the division over a new chairman of the union's executive committee, the post to which Cliff Brittle was elected. At the same time, the RFU seeks to inflict what it sees as a northern hemisphere equivalent of a provincial playing structure on an existing structure determined to resist it.

Orrell, meanwhile, have made sure of their first significant signing of the sport's new era when Frano Botica, the former New Zealand stand-off half, agreed a two-year contract believed to be worth more than £40,000.

Botica, 32, will, however, be spending the summer playing in the Super League for Castleford before turning his attentions to the code that he left in 1990 after seven appearances — mostly as understudy to Grant Fox — for the All Blacks.

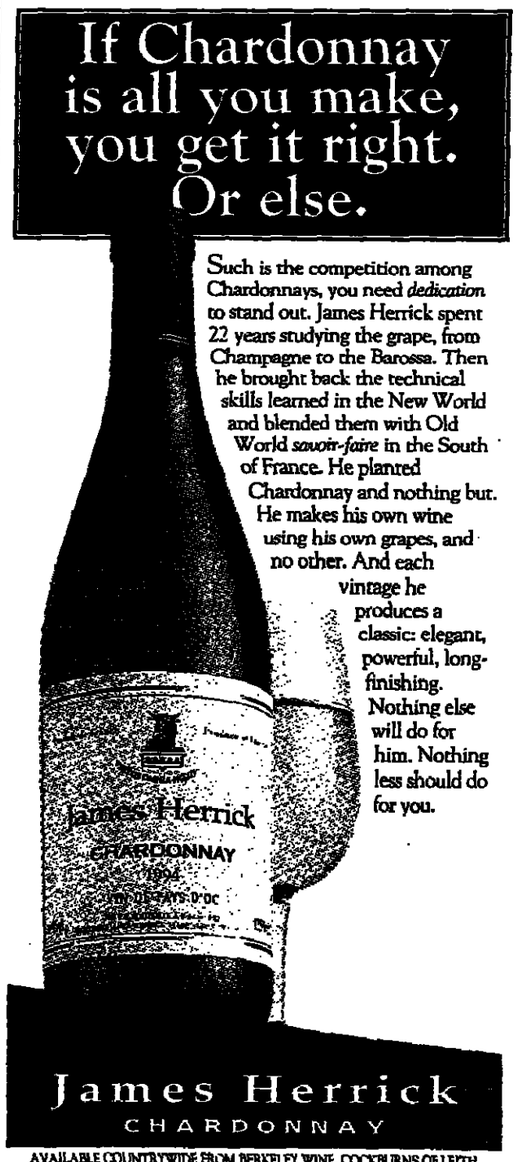
He follows three Wales internationals — Jonathan Davies (to Cardiff), John Devereux and Adrian Hadley (both to Sale) — in reverting to rugby union after a league career. Botica spent most of that time with Wigan, for whom he recorded the fastest 1,000 points in league history.



Botica: returning to union

If Chardonnay is all you make, you get it right. Or else.

Such is the competition among Chardonnays, you need *dedication* to stand out. James Herrick spent 22 years studying the grape, from Champagne to the Barossa. Then he brought back the technical skills learned in the New World and blended them with Old World *savoir-faire* in the South of France. He planted Chardonnay and nothing but. He makes his own wine using his own grapes, and no other. And each vintage he produces a classic: elegant, powerful, long-finishing. Nothing else will do for him. Nothing less should do for you.



James Herrick
CHARDONNAY

AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE FROM BERKELEY WINE, COCKBURNS OF LEITH, DAVISONS, E.H. BOOTH, ELDRIDGE POPE, EUROPA, FULLER'S, HALL BATSON, ODDBINS, RUSSELL CELLARS, SAINSBURY'S, SOMERFIELD, SPAR, THOS. PEATLING, UNWINS, VICTORIA WINE, WINE CELLAR.

IN BRIEF

Second-half try spree puts Cardiff in hunt

CARDIFF kept alive their hopes of retaining the Heineken League rugby union title by picking up maximum points in a 41-13 win over Aberavon at the Talbot Athletic Ground yesterday. They picked up three bonus points, courtesy of seven tries, to move up to third place and keep the pressure on Neath and Pontypridd.

After a sluggish start, Cardiff got their act together with six second-half tries, including three from Steve Ford, the wing, that lifted him to 19 league tries for the season — one short of the record. Cardiff's other tries came from Jonathan Humphreys, Andy Booth, Owain Williams and Adrian Davies, who also kicked three conversions.

Philip Wintle and Richard Diplock scored tries for Aberavon and Mark Watts kicked a penalty goal.

Biela sets pace for Audi

Motor racing: Frank Biela won the opening rounds of the Auto Trader RAC touring car championship at a canter at Donington Park yesterday. It was a magnificent British debut for Audi and underlined the superiority of the four-wheel-drive Audi A4 over its two-wheel-drive rivals.

Biela's closest challenger was Will Hoy, the 1991 champion, whose Renault Laguna finished second in both races. Biela heads for the third and fourth rounds of the championship at Brands Hatch on April 21 with a seven-point lead over Hoy.

Bray in vain

Cycling: A lone attack by Simon Bray, the British, Welsh and universities road-race champion, brought him victory in the final stage of the Girvan three-day race, but was not enough to dislodge Dave Williams from the yellow jersey.

Williams, who had started the day with 37 seconds in hand over Mark Lovatt, finished third in the hilly 64-mile stage, allowing Bray to drift off the front with 20 miles to go before he was hauled in to finish seven seconds ahead.

Title retained

Equestrianism: Anky van Brusben, of Holland, retained the Volvo World Cup dressage title for the second year running at Gothenburg yesterday. She guided Camelion Bonfire through an intricate freestyle pattern that included a double pirouette which earned a top mark of ten from the chairman of the five judges.

Margit Otto-Crepin, of France, the 1989 winner, rode Lucky Lord into second and Klaus Balkenol, of Germany, finished third on Garcon.

Golden great

Golf: Jack Nicklaus scored the hundredth professional victory of his career at Scottsdale, Arizona, when he retained the Tradition title. He sealed his fourth win in the seniors tournament with a second successive round of 65, which gave him a 16-under aggregate of 272 — three better than Hale Irwin, the former US Open champion.

☐ Kelly Robbins beat Val Skinner, her fellow American, on the fifth play-off hole to win the LPGA tournament in Lincoln, California.

Evans warms up

Athletics: Paul Evans, who will be trying to secure a place in the Great Britain Olympic team when he races in the Flora London Marathon on Sunday week, won the Fred Slater ten-kilometres road race at Peterborough yesterday. Evans took 1min 23sec off the the course record to win in 28min 33sec.

Rider killed

Motorcycling: Marco Burnelli, the Italian superbike rider, was killed after a high-speed crash in an Italian championship race at Monza yesterday. Burnelli, 29, and another rider, Mauro Mastrelli, who is in serious condition in hospital, collided after slipping on oil.

Jalabert returns

Cycling: Laurent Jalabert, the world No 1, made a surprise return from a knee injury suffered in the Paris-Nice race last month to take the first stage of the 36th Basque Tour in Lasarte, Spain yesterday. The Frenchman won a sprint finish to the 126km first stage of the five-stage race.

Sinclair boosts Rangers' push towards safety

Queens Park Rangers 3
Everton 1

BY ALYSON RUDD

THIS is turning into a through-the-looking-glass season for Queens Park Rangers. They spent much of it worrying when there was really no need to and now, when relegation is more likely than not, they have jumped off the psychiatrist's couch to play free-flowing, counter-attacking football as if without a care in the world.

Victory against Everton moved them one place nearer safety. It was an exemplary team performance, with Sinclair top of the class and Hateley bottom — but even the former Rangers forward managed a goal in the midst of an embarrassing overall contribution.

Everton, in the first half, gave a wonderful rendition of a team with nothing to play for. Only in the second half did they remember that there is a place in Europe at stake and at last they put the QPR goal under sustained pressure.

Fifteen minutes into the match, Everton were left exposed after a run by Sinclair, who had simply to slide the ball into Gallen's path for a goal. So many times this season, similar situations have failed to result in Gallen scoring. Yesterday, however, he confidently assessed the angle and beat Southall.

Sinclair was in one of his more effective moods. Indeed, Hinchcliffe was booked in the 27th minute after a clumsy attempt to stop one of the winger's dashes.

By contrast, Hateley seemed unable to do anything right. Sinclair found him unmarked in the penalty area, Hateley wasted the opportunity. Wilkins found him with a clever pass and Hateley booted the ball into no-man's land. But not even Hateley was going to squander Holloway's cross in the 42nd minute. Again he was given space and this time he looped his header over Southall who remained motionless, simply glaring at his defenders.

Everton, lifted from their stupor by a half-time chat with Joe Royle, the manager, almost scored within three minutes of the restart. Hinchcliffe fed the ball through to Ferguson, whose powerful shot hit the woodwork.

The second half gave QPR the chance to show off their new-found defensive repetoire and Brevett and Yates, in particular, were impressive. Sommer, too, played his part, bravely meeting the ball when under pressure and refusing to be even gently shaken by the towering presence of Ferguson.

The home side then went 3-0 ahead. Sinclair, skipping down the right flank, chose to shoot while Impey, unmarked, called for a pass. The ball fell to Impey, anyway, on the rebounds from Southall.

Everton snatched one goal from their continued assault, Ebbrell prodding the ball past Sommer after Ferguson had flicked the ball on to him. Thereafter, there was constant goalmouth action. Ferguson headed wide, wasting Hottiger's cross, and Hateley once again squandered a ball from Sinclair.

After the final whistle the home supporters clung to each other in rapture as the day's other results were announced. All in all, a splendid day in west London.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J Sommer — D Bardsley, A McDonald, S Yates, R Brevett — T Sinclair, R Wilkins, I Holloway, A Impey — K Gallen, M Hateley.
EVERTON (4-3-3): N Southall — M Hottiger, D Watson, D Unsworth (sub: C Short, 84min), A Hinchcliffe — B Horne (sub: T Grant, 74), J Parkinson, J Ebbrell — A Kanchelskis, D Ferguson, A Limpar (sub: M Branch 46).
Referee: P Durkin



Sinclair: commanding

Ball's beleaguered side shows little heart for Premiership survival battle

Timid City relegated to also-ran's role

Wimbledon 3
Manchester City 0

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

ON THE evidence of this abominable performance yesterday, Manchester City deserve to be relegated. Whether they do go down depends on how quickly they can put the memory of this game behind them, and how adversely results affect the other teams at the bottom. Should they drop out of the FA Carling Premiership, they will not be greatly missed.

Wimbledon, who needed the points almost as badly, are now all but safe, having achieved their third victory in four games. They utterly outplayed City, taking a fortieth-minute lead through Robbie Earle, who added a second two minutes after the interval. A third goal, from Efan Ekoku, followed shortly afterwards as City gave up, which is the worst thing one can say about a professional side. There was no professional pride displayed by them at Selhurst Park yesterday.

City ended the game with three Germans and two Georgians in the number, and a fat lot of good it did them. Kinkladze, the dinky little forward, was followed everywhere by Cunningham and did next to nothing, but he was nowhere near as bad as Frontzeck, the German left back, whose lamentable performance was a collector's item.

Frontzeck had given the ball away on two occasions before he did so again five minutes before half-time. Jones accepted his pass with gratitude, set up Ardley, the full back, along the right, and, when his cross came in, Earle beat Immel with a powerful header that the goalkeeper could parry but not stop.

Earle made no secret of his intentions when the ball was in the air, but City let him do as he liked. When Gayle hit the bar immediately after the restart, Jones redirected the ball back across goal and Earle headed his second goal. Then, Ekoku drove in a third, after Symons had failed to clear. Wimbledon had turned a tiresome spectacle into a thumping victory.

City made just two chances. Kinkladze, released by Kavelashvili, his fellow Georgian, shot with his left foot when his right would have been more useful, and Sullivan blocked. To be honest, Kinkladze does not have a right foot. A minute from time, when Phillips skipped down the right, Kavelashvili sent a header straight at the goalkeeper.

At first, Alan Ball, the City manager, declined to attend a post-match press conference, clearly not trusting himself to give diplomatic answers. He has never said much of interest throughout his undistinguished managerial career, and he is obviously finding it difficult to make his players listen to whatever he wants to impart.

Those players lacked any sense of spirit yesterday. Wimbledon were sharper to the ball, which was no great distinction in a match this poor, and they made better use of it. City, with Clough anonymous in midfield and with all manner of weird things going on at the back, where Immel and his defenders were hardly on speaking terms, made a pitiful sight.

They remain fourth from the bottom and Ball eventually said: "If the season finished now, I would be happy." With the Coventry City and Southampton results going their way, it was not as bad a day as it might have been, but they are still involved in a fight against relegation and may not avoid the drop.

"The first goal was a shocker," Ball said, his brow as black as thunder. "I thought in open play we made the better chances, but at free kicks we were not at all committed.

"These players are top professionals. They want the sunshine and everything that goes with it, but they have to accept responsibility and today too many of them did not."

Joe Kinnear, his Wimbledon counterpart, was a happier man. "There was only going to be one winner today," he said. "We were much the more determined team and eased up a bit after the third goal. They [Manchester City] certainly need to do more than that if they are to stay up."

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — N Ardley, A Pearce, C Perry, A Kimble — R Earle, V Jones, K Cunningham, M Gayle (sub: A Clarke, 68min) — D Holdsworth, E Ekoku (sub: J Goodman, 75).
MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-2): E Immel — I Brightwell, K Curle, K Symons, M Frontzeck — N Summerbee (sub: M Phillips, 60), G Kinkladze, N Clough, S Lomas — N Quinn (sub: U Rösler, 60), M Kavelashvili.
Referee: G Poll.



Earle, right, who scored Wimbledon's first two goals with headers, uses his feet in a tussle with Lomas yesterday. Photograph: Des Jenson

Sad Southampton beached by Yorke

Aston Villa 3
Southampton 0

BY PAT GIBSON

TWO flashes of brilliance by Dwight Yorke, skimming across the barren desert of Villa Park in his dazzling white boots as though he was playing beach football back in his native Tobago, lit up a game that did nothing to improve Southampton's chances of staying in the FA Carling Premiership.

Southampton had raised their hopes by beating Blackburn Rovers through a Le Tissier penalty at The Dell on Saturday and, for more than an hour yesterday, they clung to the hope that their talisman would be able to conjure something out of nothing.

He could not. Instead, it was Aston Villa, still playing with extraordinary commitment, even though they have a place in Europe secure, who broke the deadlock, scored two more and might have got six.

"The first goal killed us," Dave Merrington, the Southampton manager, said. "We set our stall out to do a specific job and I thought we had actually done that, because, until that one went in, I could not see Villa scoring."

Merrington must take his share of the blame. He had chosen the eccentric Grobbelaar in preference to Beasant and it was the goalkeeper's rush of blood, as he went for a Townsend corner without quite getting there, which enabled Taylor to head Villa ahead in the 64th minute.

Suddenly, Villa were rampant and two goals in the space of three minutes settled the game. First, Yorke produced a wonderful piece of skill on the edge of the six-yard box and then squared the ball for Charles to slot in his first goal of the season.

Then, Yorke controlled a long pass from Taylor just inside the Southampton half with his back to goal. He flicked the ball over Neilson's head and outpaced the rest of the defence before planting a low shot out of Grobbelaar's reach. It was his 25th goal of the season.

Villa might have scored three more after that. Townsend curled a 25-yard shot against the right-hand post and Johnson hit the other upright from the rebound. Then, in the last minute, Milosevic, clean through, hit Grobbelaar's legs with his first shot and a post with the second.

Southampton had no complaints, apart from the fact that Milosevic should not have been on the field at that stage. He should have been sent off seven minutes into the second half for striking Widdrington, with whom he had been having a running battle.

"I saw him punch him in the head but unfortunately the officials did not," Merrington said. "I would not make an issue of it because it's a man's game, but it's a part of football I don't like." Needless to say, Brian Little, the Villa manager, did not see the incident.

ASTON VILLA (5-3-2): M Bosnich — G Charles, U Ehiogu, P McGrath (sub: R Scimeca, 47min), I Taylor, A Wright — T Johnson, A Townsend, M Draper — D Yorke, S Milosevic.
SOUTHAMPTON (3-5-1-1): B Grobbelaar — J Dodd, T Widdrington, F Benali — A Neilson, D Hughes, E Venison (sub: G Watson, 65), P Tisdale, S Charlton — M Le Tissier — N Shipperley.
Referee: P Danson

Reading unhinged by Freedman

Reading 0
Crystal Palace 2

BY NICK SZCZEPANIK

WHILE automatic promotion is probably beyond Crystal Palace, this victory keeps them chugging along nicely towards the Endsleigh Insurance League first division play-offs.

Reading, on the other hand, watched by their biggest crowd of the season, are looking even more nervously over their shoulders at the only three teams behind them in the table.

The finishing from both sides was woeful, with the goalkeepers seldom called into action, although, when they were, Martyn, for Palace, was able to produce the goods, while Sheppard, his opposite number, twice had to pick the ball out of his net.

Reading had the better of the first 44 minutes, almost scoring with their first attack when Caskey, unmarked, headed wide from a cross by Williams. Quinn and Gooding, the joint player-managers, each came within inches of putting their team ahead, while, for Palace, Freedman saw a gap and launched a run on goal, but lacked the pace to outstrip his pursuers.

Palace's best hope seemed to be Sheppard's uncertain kicking, which made his defenders' insistence on passing back to him at every opportunity all the more puzzling. Finally, in the last minute of the half, there was one back-pass too many. Wdowczyk's header sold Sheppard short and Freedman touched the ball past him before putting it into an empty net.

Wdowczyk, a Poland international, nearly made amends when Martyn had to dive full length to turn aside his free kick from 20 yards. From the resulting corner, Reading forced Martyn into another fine reflex stop, from Parkinson's header.

Palace came close to extending their lead when Veart headed Edworthy's cross just past a post, but Reading went closer still as Lovell headed powerfully against the bar with Martyn out of position.

Just as Reading, their attack freshened by three substitutions, looked likely to force an equaliser, Freedman escaped the attentions of Holsgrove, took the ball to the byline and laid it into the path of Houghton, who drilled it fiercely past Sheppard.

Although Tuttle's departure, for a second bookable offence, meant that Palace had to see out the last ten minutes a man short, Reading were unable to capitalise and left the field wondering about results elsewhere.

The main danger for Palace, unlikely as they are to be able to catch Derby County for second place, is running out of steam before the beginning of that other National Lottery, the play-offs.

READING (3-1-4-2): S Sheppard — A Bernal, P Holsgrove, D Wdowczyk — P Parkinson (sub: M Meaker, 66min) — M Booty, M Gooding, D Caskey, M Gilkes — J Quinn (sub: L Nogan, 66), M Williams (sub: S Lovell, 55).
CRYSTAL PALACE (5-2-3): N Martyn — M Edworthy, G Davies, A Roberts, D Tuttle, K Brown — R Houghton, S Rodger — D Hopkin, D Freedman (sub: L Andersen, 77), C Veart (sub: B Dyer, 85).
Referee: G Pooley

Sunderland in need of reinforcements

Sunderland 0
Charlton Athletic 0

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

HOW many Sunderland players might make the grade in the FA Carling Premiership? On the evidence at a breezy, bad-tempered Roker Park yesterday, ticks would be placed only next to the names of Martin Scott, the left back, and Richard Ord, a central defender. Question marks should be appended next to young Michael Bridges, Michael Gray, Sam Aiston and Craig Russell, who was missing through injury. As for the rest — forget it.

This match served to highlight the overriding need for substantial investment by Sunderland this summer. The search for new talent should start now because, despite this stutter, Peter Reid's side remains top of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, three points ahead of Derby County with a game in hand. Missing automatic promotion would represent negligence on a grand scale, and Sunderland are far too well-organised for that. However, if the board neglects to find a minimum of £10 million, the side will undoubtedly be subjected to an appalling ordeal come August.

With nine established first-team players absent, this was a highly impressive performance by the London side, Petterson, Charlton's third-choice goalkeeper, producing a fine display in front of him, young Bridges constantly caused anxiety among Charlton's back line, but this was a tight, tough fixture to make, at 17, a first league start.

All credit to Bridges for persistently linking play so well — passing, laying off, heading on and running into astute positions so well he might have been an old-timer. The scorer of four goals in nine appearances as a substitute, Bridges is seen as an apprentice Fowler or Scholes. Here, however, he had just one clear-cut chance before retiring exhausted.

Of more significance was that his link play was allied to a deceptive toughness. Bridges may look 15 but he picked himself up like a man after a cynical challenge from Whyte. The defender was cautioned and, judging by the rash of raised studs, a few of his teammates are equally streetwise.

If Charlton were slightly fortunate to finish with 11 men, they deserved a point for stopping the likes of Gray and Bracewell. Yet Alan Curbishley's side found few answers to the right-wing questions asked by Aiston, a mop-haired teenager who tested Petterson's reflexes with his first touch. An exciting prospect, but would he be any match for a Pearce, Irwin or Hinchliffe? Doubtful.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): A Chamberlain — D Kubicki, A Melville, R Ord, M Scott — S Agnew (sub: S Aiston, 70min), K Ball, P Bracewell, M Gray — P Stewart, M Bridges (sub: L Howey, 74).
CHARLTON ATHLETIC (4-4-2): A Petterson — S Newton, R Rufus, S Balmer, C Whyte — M Robson (sub: P Linger, 46), S Brown, K Jones, J Robinson — C Leaburn, B Allen.
Referee: E Lomas

Bolton still managing to smile in the face of adversity

Bolton Wanderers 2
Chelsea 1

BY MARK HODKINSON

HOPE is ultimately more cruel than failure itself, but Colin Todd, the Bolton Wanderers manager, is set for another month at its mercy.

On Saturday, after a sound beating by Everton, Todd said that he had but a "glimmer" of hope that his team would avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership. After this win against Chelsea, the metaphorical glimmer has had its wattage increased somewhat and Todd is left once more to sup with a devil called Hope.

He revealed afterwards that he had told his team to relax and enjoy their football. "I spoke to the players about being relaxed and it showed at times," he said. "It was nice to see them play with a smile on their faces. They deserved the win and were a credit to themselves. I asked them to dig deep and they did."

In a match showing just fleeting touches of skill, Chelsea were not equal to Bolton's muscular endeavour. Wise and Spencer were joyous in battle, but often found themselves swamped by the sheer number of bodies coming at them in Bolton colours.

Chelsea took the lead in simplistic fashion. Gullit found Furlong, he reached the byline and Spencer hungrily crashed the ball past Ward.

Bolton were understandably nervous and their play was often fractured before they crossed the halfway line. Stubbs, however, cool in a crisis, fed McGinlay, who shielded the ball well before scoring with a low shot.

Just before half-time, Curcic ambled towards Chelsea's goal and, from the edge of the penalty area, slammed the ball past Hitchcock. Curcic kissed his club crest and raced along the perimeter fence touching the hand of every Bolton supporter that he passed.

The enterprise barely increased after the break, both teams compensating for a lack of skill with sweat. Curcic was usually involved in the more controlled play, with Chelsea often employing illicit means to halt his progress. He was fouled on the edge of the penalty area and drove the resultant free kick into Chelsea's goal. It was disallowed because the free kick had been indirect and Curcic's boot was the ball's only company before it hit the net.

Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, was disappointed with his side's capitulation. "It just wasn't good enough today: we're not learning from our mistakes," he said. "Bolton were worthy winners. They showed quality and were better with the ball than we were and we are supposed to be a ball-playing side."

Hoddle, once again, praised the form of Gullit, Wise and Spencer, but was upset that his team had lost three consecutive matches in which they had been in front.

Eulogies to Chelsea have been manifold and sustained this season, but they still trail in the Premiership behind sides such as Everton, Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United — teams that play a more coarse, unsophisticated game. Against Bolton, they had neither the class nor valour to raise themselves above a rugged dogfight.

For their part, Bolton are the renaissance men of the Premiership and, as Todd admitted, the drama will not finish until the last ball is kicked at the end of the season.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-1-1): G Ward — G Bergsson, C Fairclough, S Coleman, J Phillips — J McGinlay, A Stubbs, S Sellars, A Thompson — S Curcic — N Blake (sub: S Taylor, 83min).
CHELSEA (4-4-1-1): K Hitchcock — D Petrescu (sub: C Burley, 45), M Duberry, D Lee, A Myers — D Wise, N Spackman, J Spencer, S Minto (sub: G Peacock, 88) — R Gullit — P Furlong.
Referee: S Lodge.

Liverpool's fading ambitions still burning

Liverpool 2
West Ham United 0

BY PETER BALL

ALL Liverpool can do is keep winning and keep their fingers crossed that the leaders slip up. They duly did the first part yesterday, but there was an understandable lack of conviction about their approach in a game which had an end of season air about it.

The result leaves Liverpool eight points behind Manchester United with four games remaining. Teams have blown leads like that before, but it does not look likely. "United have gone on and got a result and you have got to give credit where it is due", Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "It wasn't the liveliest of fixtures, but we showed great spirit after getting kicked in the teeth at Coventry."

With Mark Wright, Phil



Barnes: second goal

Babb, and Steve Harkness all injured, and Ruddock suspended, Liverpool were forced to field a makeshift back three and their cause was not helped by the absence of Rob Jones. Even so, West Ham United showed little ambition to test any weaknesses until it was too late.

"They walked all over us in the first half and we stood back and let them dominate", Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said afterwards. "They played at their pace, it was almost like a practice match for them.

"We haven't won here for over 30 years, they had had four games in nine days and had lost on Saturday, so this was a good chance, but you don't get a result by standing around looking at them. We have got great fans and they deserve the best".

Those fans showed their calibre with chants of "there's only one John Salako", a reference to the tackle by the Coventry player which broke Harkness's leg on Saturday.

West Ham's reputation as a team of nice chaps playing cavalier football, which once persuaded Bill Shankly to describe them as his favourite visitors — "it's always a good game and we win" — is receding, and yesterday they began in their new guise as roundheads. Rowland was detailed to man-mark McManaman while Dowie was left to fend for himself up front.

Even that failed to stop Liverpool. With McManaman shackled, Collymore instead began to wander and he made the breakthrough after dropping back to pick up McAteer's crossfield pass. There appeared little danger, but West Ham backed off and Collymore swerved away from Rieper and hit a shot from nearly 25 yards through Miklosko's hands for his eighteenth goal of the season.

That was effectively that. McManaman might have added the second but Rieper got behind Miklosko to deny him. There was no one, however, to rescue the goalkeeper, when Liverpool's second goal arrived ten minutes before the interval.

Ironically it followed a rare West Ham attack. Scales broke it up, Thomas found Barnes who sent Collymore racing down the left past Hughes. Barnes met the low cross at the near post and flicked it beyond Miklosko. "That's the first time I've been in the six yard box for some time," Barnes said afterwards.

With Plan A in tatters, West Ham regrouped at the interval, Dicks moving in to form a three-man back-line and Rowland, relieved of his marking duties, taking up a position at wing back. It gave West Ham more of the play in the second half, and the change in the approach saw Breacker, Rowland and Bilic all booked as, belatedly, they began to play as if there were points and bonuses at stake.

"You are entitled to have a go in the second half, but it was too late," Redknapp said. "We never got close enough to make a tackle in the first half and when I told Rowland at half-time to get some tackles in, he goes and kicks someone which wasn't what I meant."

Even so, if Fowler had been in form, Liverpool could have won by a greater margin, but it was their turn to go through the motions in the second half, confident that West Ham were unlikely to score.

LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): D James — M Thomas, J Scales, D Matteo — J McAteer, J Redknapp, J Barnes, S Bjornebye — S McManaman — R Fowler, S Collymore.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-5-1): L Miklosko — T Breacker, M Rieper, S Bilic, J Dicks — M Hughes, I Bishop, K Rowland, D Williamson, R Slater — I Dowie

Referee: P Alcock.



Collymore scores his eighteenth goal of the season to give Liverpool the lead at Anfield yesterday

Forest deliver a harsh lesson

Leeds United 1
Nottingham Forest 3

BY DAVID MADDOCK

JEERED to his seat by his own club's supporters and jeered back again, these are interesting times for Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, for whom such an adjective is rarely appropriate.

Wilkinson managed to look more hangdog than ever, if that is possible, as his floundering side were thrust into deeper waters by Nottingham Forest, the reaction of the crowd an underscore to the general sense of malcontent pervading Elland Road these days. Just one victory in nine matches has quickened the pulse for all the wrong reasons.

Clearly, something needs to be done and Wilkinson, since a humilitating defeat in the Coca-Cola Cup final, has recognised this and changed the ingrained habits of a lifetime. Get this: his side has abandoned the Wilko-way. No more up-and-at-'em maximising of opportunity (Wilkoson-speak for the route one football that he has always felt comfortable with). Instead, he fielded a very young side yesterday and encouraged them "to play a patient passing game".

Forest, adept at that style themselves, offered a lesson in how it should be done. After trailing to an early Wetherall header, from a McAllister corner, they strolled through the rest of the game, scoring almost at will, even if Lee and Campbell, the strikers, looked slightly at odds with the rest of the technically admirable approach.

Forest thus condemned Leeds to their eighth home defeat of the season, their worst run under Wilkinson, and prompted Frank Clark, their manager, to call Forest's performance "possibly the best of the season in terms of passing and movement".

Cooper was presented with a simple opportunity to equalise after 18 minutes, again from a corner, and, before the interval, a sweeping move involving Gemmill and Stone presented Lee with a shooting chance that he accepted gratefully.

After the break, Leeds reverted to more traditional style, but to no avail. Campbell chested down to Woan, who drove the ball into the corner of the net from 25 yards. A rout, seemingly on the cards, was averted largely because Lee also reverted to type, missing twice from within the six-yard box.

Wilkinson offered an honest, if judiciously edited, assessment afterwards. "It hurts, but, if I want to milk the cheers, then I have to accept the jeers," he said. "There is great expectation here and, when things go wrong, that turns to massive disappointment; but I have not lost my confidence. I'll take all the tests and I'll pass them."

LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): J Lukic — L Radebe (sub: I Harte, 46min), J Wetherall, C Palmer, G Kelly — A Gray, J Blunt (sub: R Wallace, 46), G McAllister, G Speed — T Brolin, B Deane.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — A-I Haaland, C Cooper, S Chettle, S Pearce — S Stone, S Gemmill, C Bart-Williams, I Woan — K Campbell (sub: P McGregor, 83), J Lee

Referee: R Hart

Simpson plays lead in demolition Derby

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

DERBY County can see the Promised Land. It has been five years since they were there, many millions and many tears have been spent trying to return, but there were thousands at the Baseball Ground yesterday who were convinced that, at last, the FA Carling Premiership, Premier League, call it what you will, was on the horizon.

A 6-2 demolition of Tranmere Rovers lifted Derby to within three points of the top of the Endsleigh Insurance League first division, five points clear of Crystal Palace in third place with four games to play. Tranmere took a fifth-minute lead through Cook and must have thought that they were heading for a repeat of the 5-1 drubbing that they handed Derby at Prenton Park in November, but Powell made it 1-1 before half-time, Yates made it 2-1 shortly afterwards and then Simpson, with a hat-trick, and Sturridge turned a win into a rout. Aldridge's late penalty was scant consolation.

Swindon Town eased clear at the top of the second division after a 2-0 win at Crewe Alexandra. Horlock and Preece taking them over the 80-point threshold. Blackpool, their nearest challengers, lost 2-1 at home to Rotherham United.

For Torquay United, stranded at the foot of the third division, there was good news and bad news. First, the bad news: Plymouth Argyle won the derby at Plainmoor 2-0. Then, the good news; Stevenage Borough, top of the Vauxhall Conference, walloped Woking, their nearest rivals, 4-0. Stevenage cannot be promoted if they win the Conference, because of ground restrictions, so Torquay may yet retain League status. The names of Venables, Hayles, Sodje and Trebble were cheered loudly in Devon.

Tottenham ambition of place in Europe takes knock

Tottenham Hotspur 1
Middlesbrough 1

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's European ambitions, of a coveted place in the Uefa Cup, appeared no more than a dream at White Hart Lane. That they struggled to see off Middlesbrough, a side no more than workmanlike, in the FA Carling Premiership, did not exactly enhance their chances, should they come up against the cream of the Bundesliga or Serie A.

Even when Armstrong put them in front, in the 84th minute, with his twentieth goal of the campaign, they still contrived to allow Whelan an equaliser two minutes later. At least Arsenal and Everton, Tottenham's main rivals for fifth place and a probable gateway to Europe, slipped to defeat elsewhere.

"We knew we needed to win and I was quite happy with the first-half display," Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said. "When we went ahead, I thought that would do it, but it was very disappointing to concede the equaliser: very unprofessional."

Tottenham dominated much of the first half, with Armstrong and Sheringham interchanging confidently up front and Rosenthal weaving his way along the left flank. It was deceptive, though, with Miller, making his first appearance in the Middlesbrough goal since August, mostly untroubled.

In the second half, Tottenham's growing frustration degenerated into a rare obsession with the long punt forward. Walker, the goalkeeper, played an integral role, booming the ball upfield for anybody in a white shirt to latch on to.

Summerbell, 19, brought on for his debut, should have given Middlesbrough the lead. However, when faced with only Walker, he snatched his shot and sent it high over the crossbar. It proved expensive, soon after, with Armstrong nodding in at the far post after Campbell had flicked on Fox's corner.

Yet, Tottenham's all-round apathy quickly returned. Wilson twice cleared off the line in a frantic goalmouth mêlée, but Whelan stuck out a boot to guide in his first goal for the club. Next stop in the quest for Europe is Highbury on Monday. North London pride should at least guarantee that Tottenham produce a more impassioned performance.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): I Walker — D Austin, S Nethercott, S Campbell, C Wilson — R Fox, J Dozzell, D Howells (sub: J Edinburgh, 83min), R Rosenthal — E Sheringham (sub: S Slade, 88), C Armstrong.

MIDDLESBROUGH (5-3-2): A Miller — N Cox, D Whyte, N Pearson, P Whelan, C Fleming — R Mustoe (sub: M Summerbell, 46), C Hignett, A Moore — Juninho, C Freestone.

Referee: P Jones

Wednesday expose Arsenal's breach in security

Sheffield Wednesday 1
Arsenal 0

BY A CORRESPONDENT

AS IAN Wright testified on Saturday, the times really are a-changin' at Arsenal under the management of Bruce Rioch. Their performance yesterday emphasised that for a surprising reason — when did they ever look as vulnerable as this at the back?

While watching them struggle so conspicuously along the flanks against Sheffield Wednesday, it was hard to recall the formidable barrier that George Graham constructed around Adams, Bould, Dixon and Winterburn.

Injuries deprived Rioch of all but Lee Dixon of that quartet, but, although fit, Dixon was employed as a wing back and struggled to give impetus in attack as well as cover the space behind him.

It is true that Wednesday scored just once. Equally, Arsenal had at least as many chances on goal of one sort or another despite a subdued performance from Wright. Yet, Marc Degryse's winner, after 61 minutes, his eleventh of the season, offered a microcosm of Arsenal's problems.

Whittingham found room on the right behind Helder and, as Marshall moved across from his position as the left of three central defenders, Whittingham cut inside the pair of them and pulled back for an unmarked Degryse to shoot past David Seaman.

Poor Helder had a torrid afternoon before being put out of his misery midway through the second half. As a replacement for Winterburn, Helder allowed Atherton and Whittingham far too much licence and, while Rioch might have expected that, he could hardly have anticipated that his international winger would have such a negligible impact going forward as well.

Instead, most of Arsenal's best movements came through the middle, although even such talented players as Paul Merson and Dennis Bergkamp suffered from the general malaise on an afternoon characterised by inaccurate passing, even over short range. Arsenal have to tighten up if they hope to qualify for the Uefa Cup.

Degryse might have scored a hat-trick. Twice, Seaman saved in one-on-one situations, while David Hirst volleyed just over the bar when Degryse crossed from the right after, surprise surprise, sneaking behind Helder.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): K Pressman — P Atherton, J Newsome, D Walker, L Briscoe — G Whittingham, J Sheridan, M Pembridge, R Blinker (sub: C Waddle, 83min) — D Hirst (sub: D Kovacevic, 83). M Degryse.

ARSENAL (3-4-1-2): D Seaman — M Keown, A Linighan, S Marshall — L Dixon, D Platt, P Merson, G Helder (sub: M Rose, 66) — D Bergkamp — I Wright, J Harrison (sub: P Shaw, 66)

Referee: S Dunn

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

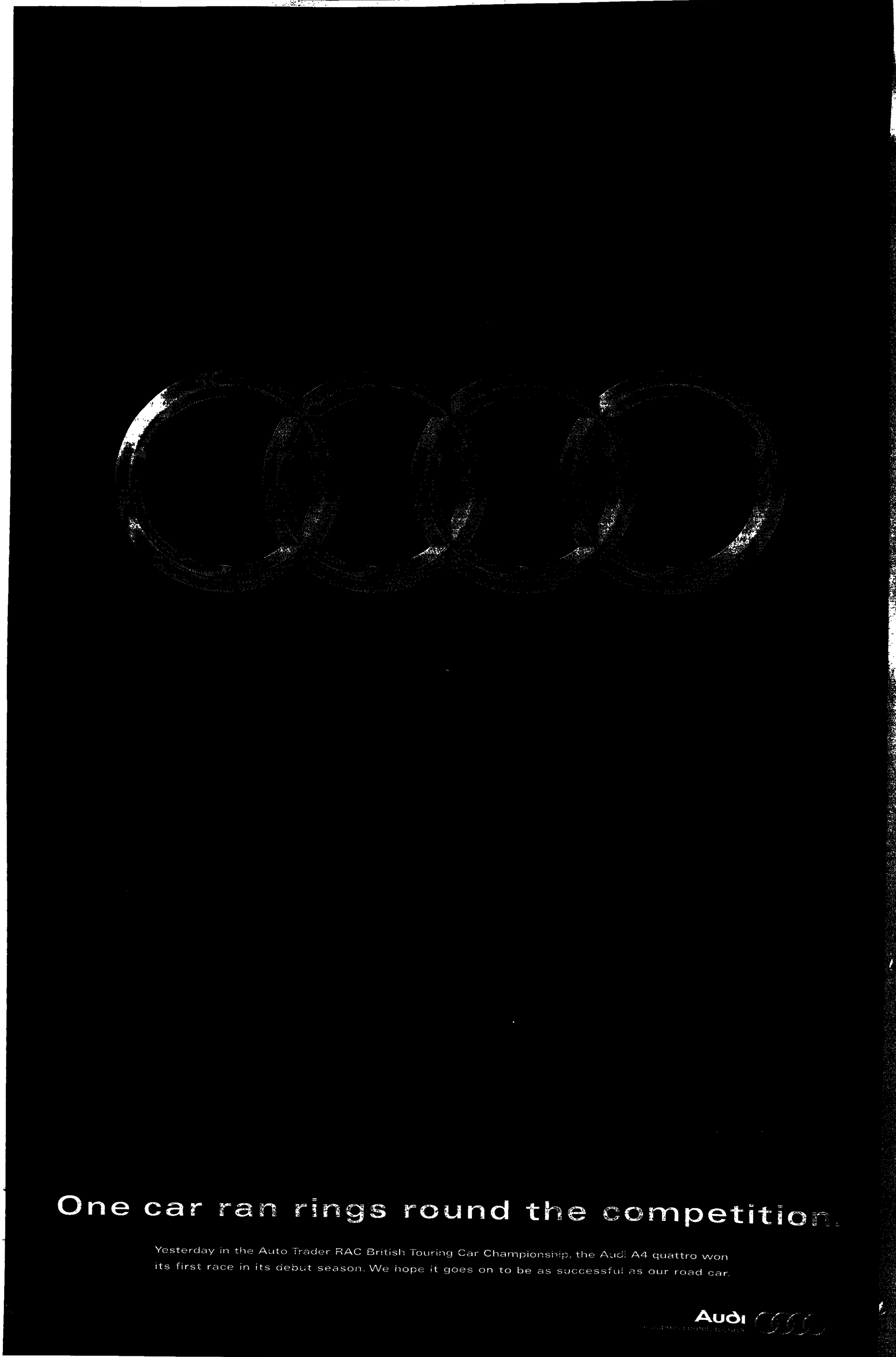
FA Carling Premiership

A VILLA	(0)	3	SOUTHAMPTON	(0)	0
Taylor 64					
Charles 78			34,059		
Yorke 82					
BOLTON	(2)	2	CHELSEA	(1)	1
McGinlay 40			Spencer 13		
Curcic 44			18,021		
LEEDS	(1)	1	NOTTM F	(2)	3
Wetherall 10			Cooper 18		
29,220			Lee 30		
			Woan 66		
LIVERPOOL	(2)	2	WEST HAM	(0)	0
Collymore 22			40,326		
Barnes 38					
MAN UTD	(0)	1	COVENTRY	(0)	0
Cantona 47			56,332		
QPR	(2)	3	EVERTON	(0)	1
Gallen 15			Ebbrell 78		
Halsley 42			18,349		
Sinclair 51					
SHEFF WED	(0)	1	ARSENAL	(0)	0
Degryse 61			24,349		
TOTTENHAM	(0)	1	MIDDLSBORO	(0)	1
Armstrong 84			Whelan 85		
32,036					
WIMBLEDON	(1)	3	MAN CITY	(0)	0
Earle 40, 47			11,844		
Ekelu 52					

Not including Blackburn Rovers v Newcastle United

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	34	22	7	5	83	32	73
Newcastle	32	21	4	7	80	38	67
Liverpool	34	19	8	7	66	31	65
A Villa	34	18	8	8	51	31	62
Arsenal	34	16	9	9	45	30	57
Tottenham	34	15	10	9	45	35	55
Everton	35	15	9	11	57	41	54
Notts F	33	14	11	8	45	43	53
Blackburn	34	14	6	13	47	40	48
West Ham	34	13	7	14	40	47	46
Chelsea	34	11	12	11	39	38	45
Middlesboro	35	11	10	14	34	44	43
Leeds	33	12	6	15	38	48	42
Sheff Wed	34	10	9	15	45	54	39
Wimbledon	34	9	10	15	51	64	37
Southampton	34	7	10	17	30	50	31
Man City	35	7	10	18	29	56	31
QPR	35	8	8	21	35	53	32
Coventry	34	6	12	16	39	60	30
Bolton	35	8	5	22	38	67	29

LEAGUE OF WALES: Alan Udo 0 Briton Ferry 4; Caersws 1 Abarystwyth 3; Connah's Quay 5 Caersws 1; Aberystwyth 3; Connah's Quay 5 Caersws 1; Aberystwyth 3; Connah's Quay 5 Caersws 1; Aber


One car ran rings round the competition.
Yesterday in the Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship, the Audi A4 quattro won its first race in its debut season. We hope it goes on to be as successful as our road car.
Audi

Bell plans to ring changes as Leeds suffer another Super League defeat

St Helens again pack powerful punch

Leeds 24
St Helens 46

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

DEAN BELL left his seat at Headingley to the mournful strains of *Yesterday*. His troubles look as if they are here to stay. Nor was there a place for the Leeds coach to hide away, now that his side is bumping along the bottom of the Stones Super League after a third successive defeat.

Asked if he thought whether St Helens would still be leading the new competition at the end of the first summer rugby league season, Bell had his doubts. He is not writing Wigan off and neither are St Helens. As to his own team's chances, Bell was sticking to his pre-season prediction of a top-four place. "I remain optimistic," he said.

This encounter underlined the differences between a team in transition and one that knows its abilities. Bell bases his hopes on imminent signings from overseas of a scrum half, loose forward and centre, whereas St Helens have strength throughout a side of tremendous potential.

The try-scoring odyssey of Danny Arnold, 18, continued with two more to add to his four against Workington and three against Wigan. Even though Hunte, the former Great Britain wing, was fit again, he was put in at full back to allow Arnold to stay on the right flank. The teenager fully justified himself with a blistering 75-metre solo try to kill off brief Leeds resistance early in the second half.

For all the quicksilver in the back line, it is a redoutable pack that is proving St Helens's main strength, and Keiron Cunningham's maturity, vision and cunning around the rucks bely his 19 years. However, it is because Shaun McRae, their Australian coach, demands perfection that St Helens are rising to new heights.

The concession of four tries did not impress him. "Our defence was nowhere near as intense as it was against Wigan," he said, "but we will take the win. Three games in eight days at this level is not easy, but I am happy the players have got through this period."

For much of the first half, Leeds competed well enough, in spite of losing Harmon, who came off worst in a challenge on Perelini, being carried off with a neck injury. Amends for Fallon losing possession and Arnold getting his first try were swift. Cummins took advantage of a kind bounce to score, and Hassan skipped clear of Hunte in support of a break-out by Mann and Iro.

From 16-6 down, the inspirational Bobbie Goulding hauled St Helens back and ahead, first with a penalty and then with a sweetly-timed pass to unleash Hunte. Sloppy defending allowed Northey in, and the third and fourth of Goulding's nine successful strikes at goal gave St Helens a 20-14 lead at the break.

After Cummins got fingertips to an accurate kick ahead by Gleadhill early in the second period, home supporters in a near 12,000 crowd got briefly excited before Arnold's conclusive long-range try, the first of 26 points by St Helens without reply.

When they occasionally managed to get out of the bottleneck in their half, Leeds suffered from bouts of dropsy. Goulding was quick to seize on the errors, a switch inside setting up Newlove and a similar move providing Martyn with a further try. In between, Cunningham twisted out of the tackles of Howard and Anthony Gibbons to plunder another.

With an embarrassment of ball, St Helens inevitably got careless. Fallon went virtually the length of the field when Sullivan fumbled close to the Leeds line. Nowadays, Leeds are grateful for small mercies.

SCORERS: Leeds: Tries: Cummins (2), Hassan, Fallon. Goals: Holroyd (3), Cummins St Helens: Tries: Arnold (2), Hunte, Northey, Newlove, Cunningham, Martyn Goals: Goulding (9)

LEEDS: A Gibbons; J Fallon, K Iro, P Hassan, P Gleadhill, F Cummins, G Holroyd; N Harmon, M Shaw, H Howard, G Mann, N Fozzard, G Mercer. Substitutes used: B McDermott, M Golden, M Schultz, D Gibbons

ST HELENS: A Hunte; D Arnold, S Gibbs, P Newlove, A Sullivan; K Hammond, R Goulding, A Perelini, K Cunningham, A Leatham, D McVey, C Joynt, A Northey. Substitutes used: C Morley, I Pickavance, T Martyn, V Malauba.

Referee: R Smith



Morley, the St Helens forward, needs two men to stop him at Headingley yesterday

Oldham press Paris

PARIS Saint-Germain clung to their unbeaten Super League home record in dramatic style, scoring late in the game to earn a 24-24 draw against Oldham.

Paris were trailing 24-18 when Paul Atcheson, the Oldham full back, failed to clear a kick by Patrick Entat and Pascal Bomati, the right wing, nipped in to score. Patrick Torreilles, the hooker, converted to leave Oldham and Paris each with three points from their first three matches.

Francis Maloney proved inspirational for Oldham, with a penalty, a conversion and a try.

Workington, however, are still chasing their first victory after Sheffield condemned them to another resounding defeat at Derwent Park. For an hour, Workington were in contention after clawing their way back from a 20-2 deficit to be within only four points, but Sheffield scored five tries in the final quarter to clinch victory as Workington ran out of steam.

Lighter Sherry weighing up expert evidence



John Hopkins finds his fellow Scots at Augusta offering the Amateur champion wise counsel

Gordon Sherry had two aims when he eased his long legs out of bed in Augusta, Georgia, yesterday morning. The first was to eat the cake baked to mark his 22nd birthday; the second was to familiarise himself with Augusta National golf club. The first was the greater challenge, for Sherry, like Colin Montgomerie, has gone slimline. The Amateur champion is still very tall, but now much slighter.

When Sam Torrance met him, he chided his countryman: "You're skinny."

"Aye," Sherry replied, "I've lost three stone. I was up to 20 stone. I did it by dieting, by watching what I was eating."

"Watching it instead of eating it," Torrance interjected. "I did not do it by fitness," Sherry, who is 6ft 8in, said. "I couldnae run the length of myself."

It was Sherry's first full day at the US Masters, at the golf club made famous by Bobby Jones, the great amateur. He will not be staying in the Crow's Nest accommodation at the top of the white, wooden clubhouse, which is available to visiting amateurs. "Beds are too small," Sherry said. "Open the door and you're out the window," Torrance said.

The task facing Sherry is as big as his size 13 golf shoes. No British amateur has ever beaten par in any round at Augusta National, and only Peter McEvoy, in 1978, has survived the 36-hole cut.

After rounds of 73 and 75, McEvoy was only seven strokes behind the halfway leader. His next two rounds were both 77 and he finished with a total of 302.

Yet, no British amateur has arrived at Augusta with so many hosannas ringing in his ears as Sherry, who finished fourth in the 1995 Scottish Open and was the cornerstone of the victorious Walker Cup team at Royal Porthcawl.

His warm personality has won him nearly as many friends and well-wishers as his golf, which drew praise from Tom Watson, Jack Nicklaus and Greg Norman at the Open at St Andrews last year.

Although Sherry spent a week in Spain earlier this year to practise on fast greens, and played at Peachtree and the Georgia golf clubs in Atlanta last week, the hard part is about to begin.

The Masters is a tournament that examines nerve as much as technique, stamina and skill. Drives have to be placed with pinpoint precision. Second shots must find exactly the correct part of the green and, as for putting, well, putting at Augusta is a tournament in itself.

On his first attempt at conquering Augusta's greens, which are traditionally among the fastest in the world, Sherry can consider himself to have done well if he three putts only a few times.

He played his first practice round with Torrance, Ian Woosnam and Frank Nobilo, and from them and others there was no shortage of advice. "Enjoy yourself and don't be aggressive," Torrance, who, at 42, is making only his third appearance at Augusta, said. "Patience is the key."



Sherry: hoping to match McEvoy

Montgomerie, who is playing here for the fifth time, said, "The winner always seems to take a double bogey, so don't worry. Never try to make a birdie, because that is when sixes and sevens enter the equation."

"Whatever you do, don't think it is too easy," Sandy Lyle, the champion in 1988, cautioned. "At first sight, it looks an easy course, no big deal. It has wide fairways and big greens, but that is when it grabs you.

"Be patient. It is a course that doesn't give you any peace and quiet. It does not allow you to get into a routine. You have to use your imagination and your brains."

Sherry has plenty of both, combining the deft touch that many big men have with the brains to have read biochemistry at Stirling University. He will turn professional next Monday, and enter his first tournament as a professional in Italy next month.

Meanwhile, he has a practice round with Watson pencilled in for today and one with Norman tomorrow. Gordon Sherry, it can be said with some confidence, has arrived.

First tour event starts with string of upsets

THE 61st English table tennis Open provided more than its fair share of surprises to usher in the sport's first professional tour at Kettering yesterday (Richard Eaton writes).

Jean-Michel Saive lost in his first tournament after becoming the world No 1, Chen Jing, the Olympic champion in Seoul, lost in the women's singles final, and Wang Tao and Lu Lin, the Barcelona gold medal-winners, lost in the final of the men's doubles.

Wang and Lu were upset by Schlager and Jindrak, the greatly-improved Austrians, to give Europe an unexpected title, yet it was the same Wang who brought down Saive 21-13, 21-13, 21-12 in the singles semi-final, and led Kong Linghui, the world champion, by two games in a strangely staccato final.

Almost as soon as Wang had established that lead with his early-ball hits and smashes behind his service, it faltered and Kong, without ever playing well, advanced to a 12-21, 14-21, 21-14, 21-14, 21-14 success.

"It is difficult to compete against a team-mate you play against so often," Wang said. "We know each other too well. You can only do your best."

Nevertheless, that best was disappointing, even though the results in both singles events may generate interest elsewhere in the world at the start of the inaugural ten-tournament tour.

Yang Ying, who, at 18, could easily become a world or Olympic champion, won 21-14, 11-21, 21-16, 21-18 against Chen Jin, unleashing a towering toss on her service and a battery of flat attacks behind it. Earlier in the tournament, she had beaten Geng Lijuan, the No 2 seed.

Hightown set gold standard

BY ALIX RAMSAY AND SYDNEY FRISKIN

TWO goals in ten minutes from Tina Cullen proved enough to give Hightown the gold medal in the women's European Cup Winners' Cup of hockey in Rotterdam yesterday. Playing Berliner, the favourites and former European champions, Hightown won the final 2-1 after Cullen's scoring prowess had done the damage in the second half.

Things had looked promising, if tense, in the first half with Hightown controlling the match but unable to make a breakthrough. At the start of the second half, however, the Germans launched an all-out attack on Carolyn Reid's goal and Hightown made the most of the extra space, catching them on the break.

Cullen struck her first after 51 minutes and the second with just over an hour gone. It brought her tally of goals to nine in four matches over the weekend. Despite pulling one goal back with a penalty stroke from Katrin Kauschke, Berliner had too much to do.

It is the second time that Maggie Souyave, the Hightown player-coach, has planned the downfall of the German favourites in Europe this season. In January, she coached England to victory over Germany in the final of the European indoor championships, the first time that Germany had lost the title.

This time, at club level, she would initially allow herself no more than cautious optimism as Hightown aimed for a medal. Now, the only thing left for Souyave and Hightown is their first national league title, which will be decided next weekend.

In the men's competition, Guildford ended their campaign in The Hague by winning the bronze medal. Two late goals by Ian Jennings from short corners sealed a 4-2 victory over Valdeluz, the Spanish club, in the play-off for third place. Guildford had the added consolation of carrying off the Fair Play Cup.

The Spaniards went ahead in the ninth minute when Iglesias converted a short corner, but their joy was short-lived with Williams levelling within two minutes. Hall's score in the 25th minute put Guildford in the lead, but that cancelled out a minute before half-time by Cobos.

Jennings restored Guildford's lead, however, with his first goal, in the 49th minute, and added his second five minutes before the end.

In a thrilling final, Durkheimer, of Germany, drew 2-2 with HDM, the host club, to send the match into a penalty-stroke competition which Durkheimer won 3-2.

Jansher keeps firm grip on precious title

JANSHER KHAN underlined the importance that he places on the Leekes British Open squash championship after winning his fifth successive title (Colin McQuillan writes).

Jansher, of Pakistan, overcame Rodney Eyles, of Australia, 15-13, 15-8, 15-10 in Cardiff and said: "I feel as if I have been playing the British Open for a month. The title is so important to me and to the whole of Pakistan. We have such a strong connection to its history.

"The World Open is important and I have to win the Pakistan Open, but the pressure from everyone in Pakistan when the British Open is coming is just so great."

Michelle Martin, of Australia, lifted her fourth successive women's title by beating Sarah FitzGerald, her compatriot, 1-9, 9-5, 9-1, 9-7.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

ROAD RACES: Peterborough: Fred Slater 10km: 1, P Evans (Belgrave) 28min 33sec; 2, R Birchall (Omega) 29:37; 3, P Larkins (Newham and Essex Beagles) 29:54; 4, A Barber (Peterborough) 30:15. Teams: 1, Nene Valley 66pts; 2, Peterborough 72; 3, Thorney 210. Veteran: M Flowers (Burton) 31min 20secs. Women: 1, L Sellers (Leeds City) 34:13; 2, T Swindell (Thurrock) 35:02; 3, J Lasenby (Essex Ladies) 36:51. Yeovil Easter Bunny 10km: 1, M Yelling (Bedford) 31:07; 2, M Feighan (Exeter) 31:28; 3, W Speake (Wells City) 31:28. Team: Somor Veteran: T Hughes (White Horse) 32:31. Women: 1, M Bradley (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 36:19; 2, C Doe (Poole) 39:50; 3, H Collins (South West Road Runners) 40:31. Team: Wells City, Rowheath: Easter Egg 5M: 1, D Smith (Solihull and Small Heath) 25:33, 2, K Fahey (Bristol) 26:15; 3, N Davey (Birmingham Rowheath) 26:32. Veteran: C Cartland (Birmingham Rowheath) 27:25. Over 60: K Court (Halesowen) 29:13. Women: 1, D Southgate (Angels RC) 32:32; 2, V Carter (Birchfield) 32:54, 3, E Teece (Telford) 33:24. Hagley Open 10km: 1, M Purdy (Newquay and Par) 31:21; 2, R James (Cornwall) 31:49; 3, S Less (Solihull and Small Heath) 33:19. Teams: 1, Cam Runners 33pts; 2, Newquay Road Runners 36. Veteran: M Orchard (Newquay Road Runners) 34min 58secs. Women: 1, J Savill (Unattached) 40:23, 2, Z Lewis (Unattached) 41:23; 3, K McFarland (Cam Runners) 41:59. Over 40: K Warren (Cornwall) 43:36. Teams: 1, Cam Runners 113pts; 2, Newquay Road Runners 115 Feltham: Easter Monday 5M: 1, V Garner (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 24mn 34sec; 2, S McDonald (Southampton Runners) 24:48, 3, E Robinson (Aldershot, Farnham and District) 25:02. Team: Aldershot, Farnham and District. Veteran: J Willoughby (Queen's Park) 26:12. Over 50: A Harbey (Barnet) 28:12. Women: 1, H Stavik (Norway) 26:35; 2, D Sanderson (Watford) 27:07; 3, D Bailey (Shaftesbury Barnet) 28:41. Team: Hounslow. Veteran: C Horne (Crawley) 28:57. Over 45: C Odon (Parkside Harrow) 31:10

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester 67 Thames Valleys 70; Doncaster 108 Birmingham 118; London Towers 97 Manchester 89; Newcastle 94 Leopards 107; Sheffield 90 Worthing 74.

BOWLS

DUNDEE: Dundee Masters: Men: Semi-finals: J Price (Wales) bt D Miller (Cumbernauld) 21-11; C Richmond (Auchinleck) bt D Ross (Galleon) 21-14. Final: Price bt Richmond 21-2. Women: Semi-finals: S Gourlay (Prestwick) bt A Thomson (Dundee) 21-10; J Lindores (Tweedbank) bt Conlan (Midlothian) 21-19 Final: Gourlay bt Lindores 21-17

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Atlanta 13 St Louis 3; Florida 7 San Francisco 14; Montreal 9 Colorado 1, Chicago 5 Los Angeles 4, Houston 2 San Diego 17

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 8 Toronto 3; Minnesota 2 Baltimore 4; Kansas City 1 Boston 3; California 6 Chicago 5; Oakland 7 Detroit 6; Texas 7 New York 2; Texas 4 New York 1; Seattle 3 Milwaukee 1.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Boston 98 Detroit 97; LA Lakers 107 San Antonio 97; Vancouver 92 Phoenix 112; Orlando 86 Chicago 90; Denver 111 Houston 105; Sacramento 92 Utah 107.

BOXING

VEJLE, Denmark: European amateur championships: Finals: 67kg: H Al (Den) bt M Simon (Rom) pts 71kg: F Vastag (Rom) bt M Beyer (Ger) pts. 75kg: S Ostke (Ger) bt Z Erdei (Hun) pts. 81kg: P Aurino (It) bt J-L Mandengue (Fr) pts. 91kg: L Krasnigi (Ger) bt C Mendy (Fr) pts 91kg: A Lezin (Russ) bt V Klitchko (Ukr) pts.

EQUESTRIANISM

GOTHENBURG: Volvo World Cup Qualifier: 1, Sonora La Silla (J Tops, Holl) 0 pts, 35.57sec; 2, Vink Especiale (E van de Vleuten, Holl) 0, 35.97; 3 Commint (M Beryard, Swe) 0, 37.05. Leading British riders: 5, Grannusch (J Whitaker) 0, 37.70; 9, Comex (W Funnell) 0, 39.11. Final European League positions (after 14 qualifiers): 1, H Simon (Austria) 99pts; 2, L Beerbaum (Ger) 94; 3 S Stoothaak (Ger) 86 Leading Britons: 6, J Whitaker 63, 14, N Skelton 45; 24, M Whitaker 35, 27, D Lampard 32. Dressage World Cup final: 1, Carnelion Bonfire (A van Broeckhoven, Holl) 100pts; 2, Lucky Lord (M Otto-Crapin, Fr) 93; 3, Gancon (K Balkenhol, Ger) 92

FOOTBALL

GERMAN LEAGUE: Borussia Mönchengladbach 3 Bayern Munich 1

SPANISH LEAGUE: Merida 2 Celta 0; Betis 2 Racing de Santander 2

GOLF

ATLANTA, Georgia: Men's BellSouth Classic: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 280: B Chamblee 72, 70, 71, 67; P Stankowski 66, 71, 70, 71; Stankowski won play-off at first extra hole. 282: D Duval 69, 70, 68, 76; N Price (Zim) 68, 70, 69, 76. 283: T Tolles 69, 70, 69, 75; F Couples 71, 73, 66, 73. 284: F Lickliter 69, 72, 76, 67; C Pavin 68, 73, 76, 68; N Lancaster 67, 70, 75, 72. 285: J Kelly 73, 71, 69, 72; E Els (SA) 75, 72, 68, 77; L Clemente 69, 71, 72, 73. 286: P Bladsmer 69, 71, 74, 72; M Bradley 68, 73, 73, 72; L Nelson 71, 75, 68, 72; G Sauers 69, 68, 76, 73; J Wilson 68, 74, 73, 73. 287: R Lohr 71, 73, 73, 70; D Forsman 70, 73, 73, 71; J Gallagher Jr 66, 75, 73, 73; M Reid 71, 72, 71, 73; D Frost (SA) 71, 69, 73, 74; D Love III 71, 69, 67, 76. 288: K Perry 71, 73, 73, 71; W Grady (Aus) 73, 72, 72, 71; R Cochran 67, 73, 76, 72; C Montgomerie (Scot) 71, 76, 68, 73; I Woosnam (Wales) 72, 75, 68, 73. Other score: 290: S Torrance (Scot) 74, 72, 74, 70

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona: The Tradition: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 272: J Nicklaus 68, 74, 65, 65. 275: H Irwin 65, 76, 65, 69. 281: R Floyd 67, 72, 69, 73. 282: B Murphy 71, 70, 69, 72. 283: W Morgan 71, 72, 72, 68; A Geiberger 73, 71, 69, 70. 284: G Archer 72, 74, 69 69. 284: J Bland (SA) 72, 76, 68, 70. 285: G Player (SA) 70, 73, 73, 69; J C Snead 69, 69, 75, 72. Other score: 294: A Jacklin (GB) 75, 75, 70, 74

LINCOLN, California: Twelve Bridges LPGA Classic: Leading final scores (US unless stated): 273: K Robbins 73, 68, 69, 64; V Skinner 69, 68, 71, 65 (Robbins won play-off at fifth extra hole). 277: E Klein 65, 71, 73, 68, M Mallon 73, 68, 67, 69, B Mucha 68 70 69 70. 278: D Andrews 73, 71, 68, 66; R Walton 70, 71, 69, 68; C Schreyer 70, 69, 68, 71; A Sorenstam (Swe) 69, 66, 72, 71. 279: R Jones 72, 71, 67, 69, D Richard 72, 68, 70, 69. 280: A Fruhwirth 75, 67, 73, 64. 281: J Inkster 72, 70, 71, 68; T Hanson 75, 65, 71, 70; T Kerdyk 69, 71, 68, 73. 282: D Dorrmann 74, 69, 70, 69; L Deves (GB) 70, 74, 68, 70.

SOUTHERNDOWN: Duncan Putter Open tournament: Leading final scores: 281: G Wolstenholm (Bristol and Clifton) 73, 74, 72, 72. 284: M Ellis (Wrexham) 73, 76, 69, 76. 287: M Smith (Ross-on-Wye) 72, 74, 77, 74. 300: C Rees (Ashburnham) 78, 71, 76, 75. 301: A Hanby (Llanwern) 78, 76, 77, 70. 302: R McGuirk (Princes) 76, 75, 73, 77; R Williams (Conwy) 79, 74, 75, 74. 303: D Harris (Shrewsbury) 80, 71, 78, 74; M Carver (Queensland) 71, 79, 77, 76.

HOCKEY

ROTTERDAM: Women's European Cup Winners' Cup: Division A: Classification matches: Dinamo Surny 1 Sardinaro 1; Pegasus 8 Libertas San Saba 0 Play-off for third place: Rotterdam 5 Stade Francais 1.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): New Jersey 4 NY Rangers 2; Boston 4 Philadelphia 2; Detroit 4 Chicago 1, Colorado 4 Dallas 1; Anaheim 5 San Jose 3

Eastern Conference

Atlantic division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
* Philadelphia	42	24	13	97	271	204
* NY Rangers	41	23	14	96	265	220
Florida	39	30	9	87	246	223
Washington	38	30	11	87	226	197
New Jersey	36	31	12	84	209	190
Tampa Bay	35	31	12	82	228	239
NY Islanders	21	49	8	50	214	303

Northeast division

† Pittsburgh	48	26	4	100	346	264
Montreal	40	31	9	89	256	240
Boston	38	30	11	87	273	260
Hartford	32	37	9	73	227	248
Buffalo	30	42	7	67	235	257
Ottawa	17	57	5	39	181	279

Western Conference

Central division

	W	L	T	Pts	F	A
† Detroit	59	13	7	125	310	175
* Chicago	39	27	13	91	263	211
Toronto	33	35	12	78	239	244
St Louis	32	38	14	78	213	241
Winnipeg	35	38	5	75	264	276
Dallas	24	40	14	62	215	265

Pacific division

† Colorado	45	24	10	100	312	230
Vancouver	31	34	15	77	273	276
Calgary	32	35	11	75	229	229
Anaheim	32	38	8	72	219	235
Edmonton	30	41	8	68	232	291
Los Angeles	22	39	18	62	242	291
San Jose	20	53	7	47	250	345

† Division title * Play-off place

RIFLE SHOOTING

BISLEY: Easter meeting: Short-range aggregate: 1, A Ogilvie (Wandsworth) 329 43pts; 2, S Penrose (Stock Exchange) 328 60; 3, A Ringer (Birmingham University) 328 52. 15 shots at 900 yds: 1, M Wrigley (N London) 75 14; 2, Penrose 75.11; 3, A Clarke (ATRC) 75 11. Grand aggregate: 1, S Penrose (Stock Exchange) 548.69; 2, S Belither (Uppingham Vets) 545.85; 3, A Clarke (ATRC) 543 73. Long-range aggregate: 1, Penrose 220.29, 2, Clarke 219 24, 3, P Chance (Surrey) 218.26 British Fullbore Rifle Club (300m): 1, A Pearce (Chobham) 590, 2, A Campbell (Bedford) 589; 3, J Hawarth (City of Oxford) 588

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Super League

Leeds 24 St Helens 46

Leeds: Tries: Cummins 2, Fallon, Hassan. Goals: Cummins, Holroyd 3. St Helens: Tries: Arnold 2, Hunte, K Cunningham, Martyn, Newlove, Northey Goals: Goulding 9 Att: 11,848.

Paris 24 Oldham 24

Paris: Tries: Bomati, Cabestany, Entat, Lucchese Goals: Torreilles 4. Oldham: Tries: Abram, Maloney, Munro, Patmore. Goals: Maloney 4 Att: 6,327

Workington 22 Sheffield 54

Workington: Tries: Allen, L Smith, R Phillips. Goals: Marwood 5 Sheffield: Tries: Cook, Farrell, Garcia 2, Hay, McAllister, Senior, Sheridan, Sodje 2 Goals: Acton 7. Att: 1,904.

First division

Keighley 34 Hull 30

Keighley: Tries: Critchley, King, Pinkney 2, Ramshaw, Stoop Goals: Dixon 5 Hunt: Tries: Carter, Fisher, Moffatt, Webber 3 Goals: Gray 3 Att: 6,069

Widnes 40 Whitehaven 8

Widnes: Tries: Dowerah, McCurrie, Pochoy 2, Thomley, Tyrer 2, Wright Goals: Tyrer 4. Whitehaven: Tries: Seeds 2 Att: 2,748

Second division

Carlisle 42 Leigh 34

Carlisle: Tries: Kavanagh, Manfredi 2, Matt Lynch, Meteer, Russell 2 Goals: Richardson 7 Leigh: Tries: Carr, Hadfield, Hill, Ingram, Lyon, Mason. Goals: Williamson 5 Att: 650

Doncaster 29 York 18

Doncaster: Tries: Carlyle, Chappell, Coult, Hewitt, Picksley Goals: Chappell 4 Dropped goal: Green York: Tries: Hall, Pallister, Smark. Goals: Smark 3 Att: 1,449

Hull K R 30 Hunslet 21

Hull K R: Tries: D'Arcy 2, Eastwood, Okul Goals: Eastwood 7 Hunslet: Tries: Brook, Plunge 2 Goals: Simon Wilson 4 Dropped goal: Close Att: 2,000.

Prescot 20 Barrow 8

Prescot: Tries: Deakin 2, Mort Goals: Fanning 4. Barrow: Try: Magnus. Goals: Meade 2. Att: 356

AUSTRALIAN LEAGUE: St George 34 Newcastle 30

RUGBY UNION

Heineken League

First division

Aberavon 13 Cardiff 41

Aberavon: Tries: Diplock, Wintle Pens: Wells. Cardiff: Tries: A Booth, A Davies, Ford 3, Humphreys, Williams. Cons: A Davies 3

FRENCH CHAMPIONSHIP: Pool one: Narbonne 21 Toulouse 20; Grenoble 30 Nimes 11. Racing 16 Bayonne 49; Agen 27 Nice 6; Perpignan 30 Toulon 12. Pool two: Montpellier 5 Brive 53; Dax 20 Montferrand 9; Rumilly 16 Castres 24, Pau 14 Begles-Bordeaux 9; Colomiers 22 Bourgoin 28.

SUPER 12 TOURNAMENT: Canterbury 7 Australian Capital Territory 29 (at Christchurch)

CALVISANO, Italy: Fira World Youth Cup: Final: Argentina 34 Wales 7. Play-off for third place: Romania 32 Scotland 6

SQUASH

CARDIFF: Leekes British Open: Men: Final: J Khan (Pak) bt R Eyles (Aus) 15-13, 15-8, 15-10. Women: Final: M Martin (Aus) bt S FitzGerald 1-9, 9-5, 9-1, 9-7. Men over 45: Final: H Jahan (Surrey) bt K Jones (Berkshire) 9-4, 9-0, 9-0 Women over 35: Final: V Cardwell (Australia) bt L Brown (Staffordshire) 9-6, 5-9, 9-3, 9-5

TABLE TENNIS

KETTERING: English Open: Men: Singles: Quarter-finals: P Saive (Bel) bt Lu Lin (China) 21-10, 6-21, 19-21, 21-14, 21-13; Wang Tao (China) bt W Schlager (Austria) 22-25, 21-15, 21-18, 24-22; J Roseckpl (Ger) bt Ma Wenge (China) 21-16, 22-20, 12-21, 21-15, Kong Linghui (China) bt P Korbel (Cz) 15-21, 18-21, 21-17, 21-12, 21-13. Semi-finals: Wang bt Saive 21-13, 21-13, 21-12; Linghui bt Roseckopl 21-15, 21-16, 21-11. Doubles: Semi-finals: W Schlager and K Jindrak (Austria) bt Kong Linghui and Ma Wenge (China) 19-21, 21-15, 21-19; Wang Tao and Lu Lin (China) bt J Saive and P Saive (Bel) 21-18, 21-12. Women: Singles: Third round: Wu Na (China) bt Ni Xia Lian (Lux) 19-21, 18-21, 21-18, 21-14, 23-21, B Vriesekoop (Hol) bt I Palina (Russ) 21-16, 19-21, 21-18, 21-18. Wang Hui (China) bt Geng Lijuan (Can) 21-3, 21-8, 21-7. Quarter-finals: Chen Jing (Taipei) bt Wu Na 14-21, 21-15, 21-13, 21-19, E Timina (Russ) bt Li Ju (China) 19-21, 21-16, 22-20, 21-17, Yang Ying (China) bt Vriesekoop 21-16 21-17, 14-21, 21-17, Chai Po Wa (HK) bt Wang Hui 25-23, 21-13, 9-21, 21-11. Semi-finals: Chen bt Timina 21-18, 21-15, 21-19, Yang bt Chai (China) 21-19, 21-12, 19-21, 21-18. Doubles: Semi-finals: Yang Ying and Wang Hui (China) bt K Okazake and R Matsuoka (Japan) 21-9, 21-12; Li Ju and Wu Na (China) bt C Chen, Jing and Chen Chau-Tan (Taiwan) 21-11, 24-22

SNOOKER

PLYMOUTH: British Open: Semi-final: J Higgins (Scot) bt R O'Sullivan (Eng) 6-4

TENNIS

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina: Women's tournament: Final: A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt B Peulos (Austria) 6-2, 2-6, 6-2.

DAVIS CUP: Asia/Oceania Zone: Group one: New Zealand 3 South Korea 2

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday April 13
unless stated
Coupon No, fixture, forecast

FA PREMIERSHIP
1 Chelsea v Leeds X
2 Coventry v QPR 1
3 Man City v Sheff Wed 1
4 Middl'bro v Wimbledon 1
5 Nott'm F v Blackburn 1
6 South'pton v Man Utd X
7 West Ham v Bolton 1

Not on coupons: Arsenal v Tottenham Hotspur (Monday); Newcastle United v Aston Villa (Sunday)

FIRST DIVISION
8 Barnsley v Reading X
9 Birmingham v Luton 1
10 C Palace v Southend 1
11 Huddersfield v Millwall 1
12 Oldham v Wolves 2
13 Sheff U v Sunderland 2
14 Stoke v Portsmouth 1
15 Tranmere v Leicester 2
16 Watford v P Vale 2
17 W Brom v Grimsby X

Not on coupons: Charlton v Derby (Sunday); Ipswich v Norwich (Sunday)

AUTO WINDSCREENS SHIELD FINAL
Not on coupons: Rotherham v Shrewsbury (at Wembley, Sunday).

SECOND DIVISION
18 Brentf'd v Notts Co 1
19 Burnley v Peterboro 1
20 Chest'f'd v Bristol C 2
21 Hull v Crewe 2
22 Swansea v Brighton 2
23 Swindon v Bourn'm'th 1
24 Walsall v Bradford X
25 York v Wycombe 2

Not on coupons: Bristol Rovers v Blackpool; Carlisle v Wrexham.

THIRD DIVISION
26 Barnet v Hartlepool 1
27 Bury v Torquay 1
28 Camb'ge v Doncaster X
29 Chester v Rochdale 1
30 Colchester v Fulham 1
31 Gillingham v Exeter 1
32 Hereford v Leyton O 1
33 Lincoln v Mansfield 2
34 Plymouth v Scarboro 1
35 Preston v North'pton 1
36 Scunth'pe v Cardiff 1
37 Wigan v Darlington 1

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE
38 Dover v Altrincham X
39 Had'fd'd v Dagenham 1

SCOTTISH PREMIER
40 Aberdeen v Motherwell X
41 Kilmarnock v Falkirk 1
42 Raith v Hearts 2
43 Rangers v Partick 1

Not on coupons: Hibernian v Celtic (Sunday).

SCOTTISH FIRST
44 Clydebank v Airdrie 1
45 Dumbarton v St Mirren 1
46 Dundee v Dunf'mline 1
47 Hamilton v G Morton 2
48 S J'stone v Dundee X

SCOTTISH SECOND
49 Berwick v Montrose 1
50 Clyde v East Fife 2
51 Forfar v Stranraer X
52 Q of South v Stirling 2
53 Stenh'muir v Ayr 1

SCOTTISH THIRD
54 Brechin v Livingston 2
55 Cal'd'n v Cowdenb'th X
56 E Stirling v Albion 1
57 Queen's Pk v Arbroath 1
58 Ross v Alloa 1

DRAWS (home teams): Chelsea, Southampton, Barnsley, West Brom, Walsall, Cambridge, Wigan, Dover, Aberdeen, St Johnstone, Forfar, Caledonian
BEST DRAWS: Chelsea, West Brom, Walsall, Cambridge, Dover
AWAYS: Sunderland, Leicester, Port Vale, Brighton, Wycombe.
HOMES: Coventry, Nottingham Forest, West Ham, Birmingham, Huddersfield, Burnley, Bury, Chester, Scunthorpe, Kilmarnock, Dundee, East Stirling.
FIXED ODDS: Homes: West Ham, Birmingham, Huddersfield, Burnley, Chester. Aways: Port Vale, Brighton, St Mirren. Draws: West Brom, Walsall, Dover.

☐ Vince Wright

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Leicester v West Bromwich (7.45) ....
Luton v Stoke (7.45) ....

Second division
Bournemouth v Swansea (7.45) ....
Brighton v Burnley (7.45) ....
Notts County v Bristol Rovers (7.45) ....
Shrewsbury v Chesterfield ....

Third division
Scarborough v Bury ....

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
Partick v Aberdeen ....

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern division: Forest Green v Cinderford

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Hendon v Worthing (7.45).

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Norwich (3.0); Charlton v Millwall (2.0); Queens Park Rangers v Crystal Palace (at Harrow Borough, 7.0). Second division: Cardiff v Newport AFC

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.0): First division: Darby County v Birmingham City; Leeds United v Wolverhampton (at Halifax FC); Liverpool v Nottingham Forest; Sheffield Wednesday v Tranmere Rovers. Second division: Grimsby v Rotherham; Mansfield v Coventry; Sunderland v Hull.

LEAGUE OF WALES: Inter Cardiff v Briton Ferry

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Crusaders v Bangor (3.0). Glenavon v Cliftonville; Linfield v Portadown

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: St Margaretsbury v Waltham Abbey

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Letchworth v Hoddesdon; Shillington v Langford; Arlesey Town v Milton Keynes; Welwyn Garden v Potters Bar.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Chippenham v Bristol Manor Farm; Poulton R v Westbury; Elmore v Mangotsfield.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Eastwood H v Ridsgrove

LINLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Horsham YMCA v Mile Oak, Oakwood v Three Bridges; Pagham v Portfield

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Comard v Tiptree.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: West Midlands: Police v Sandwell

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final, first leg: West Ham United v Wimbledon (7.0)

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools Jersey Festival: Bishop Auckland v Chiltern: Gravesham v Reading; Hackney v Plymouth; Jersey A v Barking; Gloucester v Thurrock; South Oxford v Maidstone; West Cornwall v

Cumani opens seasonal account in fine style at Kempton

JULIAN HERBERT



Cochrane produces the grey Hard To Figure with a well-timed challenge to land the Quail Conditions Stakes at Kempton yesterday

Lucky Di looks full of promise

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

A LARGE holiday crowd left Kempton yesterday with the distinct impression that the Flat season had finally burst into life. Winners from the stables of Cecil, Chapple-Hyam, Dunlop and Cumani combined with the absence of overcoats to herald in the spring.

Pride of place on the eight-race card went to Luca Cumani. The Newmarket handler, his yard once again housing horses of the Aga Khan, was in unusually optimistic voice after saddling the four-year-old Lucky Di to win the Magnolia Stakes in a common canter. Cumani rarely drops his guard: it should pay to heed his upbeat assessment of the Diesis colt.

Lucky Di looked every inch a horse to conjure with after he reduced his 11 opponents to the chore of chasing his shadow. He is the type with which Cumani excels: a lightly-raced individual who has been given plenty of time to recover from injury. He is not one to dismiss lightly when graduating to a higher class.

"I think this is a proper group horse," Cumani said on unsaddling his first winner of the season. "The only doubt was whether the horse was straight enough after his long absence. He injured a hind leg at Newbury last year so we decided to give him the rest of the year off."

Like Lucky Di, Smart Alec suffered through injury last year but the colt is progressing nicely towards his reappearance in the Earl of Sefton Stakes at Newmarket next week. Should Smart Alec retain the ability he showed in his two victories in 1994, Cumani will have plenty to anticipate while the Aga Khan's juveniles learn their paces. Meanwhile, Mons, winner of the Royal Lodge Stakes last season, is to reappear in the Thresher Classic Trial at Sandown later this month.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: HOLY WANDERER
(3.40 Uttoxeter)
Next best: Erinyo
(2.40 Uttoxeter)

Much though Cumani will relish the prospect of a lucrative season, no man has a greater incentive to succeed than Henry Cecil. The reverberations over Cecil's much-publicised divorce from the Sheikh Mohammed camp have yet to subside, but the ten times champion trainer was in ebullient form after Magnificent Style did full justice to her name in the opening City Industrial Supplies Maiden Stakes.

A powerful galloper, Magnificent Style races for the Buckram Oak Holdings company of Mahmoud Fustok, a major player in this country until he dispersed his string at the turn of the decade. But the Lebanese businessman has quietly returned to Britain with Cecil very much his chosen trainer.

So continues Cecil's rebuilding programme in the wake of the sheikh's departure. "Mr Fustok has been good to me over the years," he reflected. "He has some well-bred horses and sent me eight two-year-olds this year."

Fustok's bloodstock empire is such that Cecil will be anxious to get the most from the owner's Silver Dome, a Derby fancy who heads for the same classic trial as Mons.

As for Magnificent Style, Cecil believes the filly could be a force in the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot. "She is a very backward sort," he said, "and she should improve as the year goes on."

The Newmarket trainer also reported that Bosra Sham, favourite for the 1,000 Guineas, is on target for the Fred Darling Stakes at Newbury a week on Friday.

Other noteworthy performances were put up by Samraan, trained by John Dunlop, and Regal Archive, from the fast-starting Peter Chapple-Hyam stable. The former will improve for stepping up to 12 furlongs, while the latter showed a sharp turn of foot over seven furlongs on his racecourse debut.

Absalom's Lady takes honours

ABSALOM'S LADY gamely held off Backgammon by a head to capture the Welsh Champion Hurdle at Chepstow yesterday.

"We were talking about retirement for her as she hasn't raced with any enthusiasm this season," David Elsworth, the winning trainer, said. "At her best she'd eat these for breakfast, but she's been wrong and my confidence has been shattered with her as usually I tell the jockeys to hold her up. But today I told Tony [Procter] to jump off and be up there," he added.

Striking the front four out, the grey mare stayed on in determined style, sticking her head out on the run to the line to hold off Backgammon's determined challenge.

When asked if the mare would now be retired, he replied: "You're a long time retired and after that win we'll have to sit down and think about what's next for her."

RACING AHEAD

Robert Wright suggests the best value in the ante-post market

VODAFONE DERBY
Epsom, June 6

GUIDE TO THE LEADING PRICES

	Coral	Ladbrokes	Tote
Alhaarth	3-1	11-4	3-1
Mark Of Esteem	20-1	12-1	14-1
Sacho	14-1	14-1	14-1
Silver Dome	10-1	10-1	14-1
Mons	33-1	20-1	20-1
Beauchamp King	25-1	25-1	20-1
Astor Place	33-1	33-1	33-1
Mellow	25-1	33-1	25-1
Hever Island	20-1	33-1	33-1
Nash House	25-1	33-1	33-1
Mick's Love	25-1	25-1	25-1
Classic Eagle	33-1	33-1	33-1

An ante-post bet on the Derby at this time of the season is not always a sensible option. However, there are sound reasons for taking an early interest in this year's renewal, with question marks over many of the market leaders. Alhaarth is ridiculously short at 3-1 for a horse with serious stamina doubts. Mark Of Esteem and Beauchamp King, also both doubtful stayers, are not even entered at this stage, although they can be supplemented.

Last season's Derby went to the beautifully bred Lammtarra, who had run just once as a juvenile. Two that fit the bill this year are Dushyantor and Sacho. Dushyantor won his only start — a backend maiden at Nottingham — and is by champion sire Sadler's Wells out of Oaks runner-up Slightly Dangerous, who has already produced a string of top-class winners, including Derby winner Commander-In-Chief.

Sacho was a fast-finishing runner-up on his only start, behind Silver Dome in a Newmarket maiden. He is another Sadler's Wells colt and his dam, Oh So Sharp, won the 1,000 Guineas, Oaks and St Leger. However, both Dushyantor and Sacho have much to prove.

The best option now is to stay with a proven performer, and the one that stands out is the Luca Cumani-trained Mons. He put up an outstanding performance to win the group two Royal Lodge Stakes by five lengths, and can be forgiven his subsequent defeat in the Racing Post Trophy as he was unsuited by the slow early pace. A definite stayer, MONS makes plenty of appeal at 25-1 with Coral.

UTTOXETER

THUNDERER

2.10 Far Out. 2.40 Wayfarers Way. 3.10 Just One Canaletto. 3.40 Dreams End. 4.10 Larry's Lord. 4.40 Country Star. 5.10 Vitaman.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.10 LARRY'S LORD.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS
TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.10 CENTRAL TELECOM SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,141: 2m 4f 110yd) (18 runners)

101 2-PP SARISTA GRAI 24 (B,D,F) P Wegmann 8-11-10 . . T Eley 80
102 5/03- AUTHORSHIP 325 (D,F,G) W Musson 10-11-7 R Massey (5) 88
103 60/P BUSTINO 15 (B,G,S) S Dark 10-11-7 Miss R Clark (7) 84
104 0660 FAR OUT 27 (V,CD,F,S) D Brennan 10-11-7 . . M Brennan 97
105 -P05 PETITE BIJOU 8 (S) R Brotherton 5-11-3 . . M A Fitzgerald 80
106 5002 BUSHEHR 17 S Curran 4-11-3 . . C Rae (7) 86
107 32- BENTLEY MANOR 704 (D,G,S) K Bridgwater 7-11-3 B Powell –
108 0446 ASTARTIGTERN 10F E Oldroyd 6-11-0 P Midgley (3) 87
109 0440 RAY RIVER 32 (G) K Wingrove 4-11-0 . . J Ryan 86
110 -213 BRIGHT SAPPHIRE 175 (CD,F,G,S) F Jordan 10-10-12 . . J Lodder 80
111 044P ALWAYS ALEX 117 (F,G) J Allen 9-10-12 . . Gary Lyons 83
112 3545 BEECHFIELD FLYER 21 W Clay 5-10-12 . . Guy Lewis (3) 88
113 3630 LITTLE CORKER 42 A Smith 8-10-11 . . S Wynne 83
114 5063 CREMARDO CROWN 24 P Bevan 5-10-11 . . W Worthington 83
115 -3/P LONDON HILL 27 (D,F) Mrs T Mitchams Stanton 8-10-9 G Upton –
116 100P EDWARD SEYMOUR 48 (D,S) W Jenks 9-10-8 Mr R Burton (7) 95
117 1050 CRIMINAL RECORD 6 (F) P Bradley 6-10-6 . . J R Kavanagh 83
118 P50 DEBOS 20 M Pipe 6-10-5 . . . . . D Bridgwater 80

9-2 Bright Sapphire, 5-1 Busheyr, 7-1 Astartigtern, 8-1 Bentley Manor. Far Out, 10-1 Criminal Record, Beechfield Flyer, 12-1 others

2.40 WEATHERBYS PRINTING SERVICES NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,305: 2m) (16)

201 -23F VER JUBILE 137 (V) J Cresswell 5-11-12 . . G Tormey (3) 80
202 32/2 ERINYO 11 (D,S) J Gosden 7-11-7 . . J R Kavanagh 88
203 -P05 HAMBLEDON 18 (V) W Clay 5-11-6 . . Guy Lewis (3) 98
204 6/35 WAYFARERS WAY 33 N Henderson 5-11-6 . . M A Fitzgerald 90
205 4169 EXCLUSIVE 227 (D,F) J Hetherton 7-11-6 . . R Massey 90
206 06-0 JUBELLE 26 J Long 6-11-4 . . S McNeill 80
207 0200 LETS BE FRANK 28 C Egerton 5-11-3 . . G Bradley 88
208 6P/3 LARKFIL LOVE 17 T Dyer 6-11-3 G Hogan (3) 81
209 3/45 NORTHERN SHADES 21 (CD,G) F Hodges 6-10-9 . . T Jarvis 95
210 1P26 SHEEKY 10 (D,S) S Matthews 6-10-7 . . G Robertson 93
211 -653 PLENTY 22 N Gaselee 5-10-5 . . L Wyer 85

4-1 Erinyo, 5-1 Exclusive, Northern Shades, Wayfarers Way, 6-1 Plenty, Coast Along, 7-1 Lets Be Frank, 8-1 others

3.10 WELLMAN PLC NOVICES CHASE (£3,745: 2m 5f) (4)

301 P5/0 ERLEAD 17 (V,S) G Balding 7-11-6 . . Guy Lewis 88
302 0/05 JUST EVE CARALETTO 20 (S) N Tarrant-Davies 8-11-2 . . C Llewellyn 71
303 UF3 MERLIN'S LAD 25 (S) J Edwards 7-11-2 . . M A Fitzgerald 88
304 REDWOOD LAD . . . . . L Wyer –

5-4 Merlins Lad, 2-1 Just Eve Caraletto, 4-1 Erlead, 8-1 Redwood Lad.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Southwell: 3.00 Parkside Lad, 3.00 Born A Lady, Thorntoun Jewel. Uttoxeter: 2.10 Sarista Grai, 5.10 Grooms Gold. Wetherby: 3.50 Aly Daley, 4.20 Jasilu

3.40 DOUGLAS CONCRETE HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,993: 2m) (8)

401 1200 GOLDEN HELLO 11 (D,F,G,S) T Easterby 5-11-10 . . L Wyer 90
402 0202 DREAMS END 6 (D,F,S) P Bowen 8-11-6 . . A P McCoy 89
403 -116 BURES 157 (V,D,F,G) M Tompkins 5-11-1 D Bridgwater 87
404 2321 IVY EDITH 29 (F,S) T Mills 6-10-11 . . M A Fitzgerald 83
405 4301 HOLY WANDERER 20 (D,F,S) T George 7-10-8 G Hogan (3) 95
406 1444 NADJATT 157 (B,D,F) D Gandolfo 7-10-8 Sophie Mitchell (5) 83
407 1135 WAMDHA 28 (D,F,G,S) K Morgan 6-10-2 . . A S Smith 85
408 1040 UP THE JUNCTION 38 (D,F,G) Mrs P Dutfield 6-10-0 T Dascombe (3) 90

3-1 Dreams End, 4-1 Golden Hello, 5-1 Holy Wanderer, Ivy Edith, 6-1 Nadjatt, 7-1 Bures, 10-1 others

4.10 HOUGHTON VAUGHAN HANDICAP CHASE (£4,605: 2m 5f) (5)

501 -254 ELFAST 27 (C,F,G,S) P Webber 13-11-10 . . R Bellamy 94
502 13P6 JAMES PIGG 12 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 9-11-10 D Bridgwater 90
503 F1U5 CORRARDER 24 (CD,F,G) J Old 12-11-5 . . Mr J Smyth-Osbourne 94
504 1440 DARK OAK 14 (D,F,G,S) J Curtis 10-10-13 . . L Wyer 98
505 3122 LARRY'S LORD 24 (D,F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-10-10 A P McCoy 89

7-4 Larry's Lord, 3-4 James Pigg, 3-2 Elfast, 6-1 Corrarder, 7-1 Dark Oak.

4.40 JENKINSONS CATERERS MAIDEN HURDLE (Div I: £1,951: 2m) (16)

601 0-0P AEOLIAN 12 R Allison 5-11-6 . . . . . D Leahy –
602 00P0 ALTHREY ARISTOCRAT 34 P Lloyd 6-11-6 . . . . . S McNeill –
603 006 BOLD JOKER 25 G Oldroyd 5-11-6 . . . . . P Midgley (3) 57
604 4 COUNTRY STAR 7 C Brooks 5-11-6 . . . . . G Bradley 78
605 0P CULRAIN 17 T Caldwell 5-11-6 . . . . . Pat Caldwell –
606 0P DAJRAAN 18 N Tinston-Davies 7-11-6 . . . . . C Llewellyn –
607 5 IRISH WILDCARD 18 H Oliver 5-11-6 . . . . . V Slattery –
608 KURDISTAN 198F Miss H Knight 6-11-6 Mr J Gullery (5) –
609 LASTOFTHEIDIOTS T Watt 7-11-6 . . . . . Gary Lyons –
610 6 PRUSSIA 18 W Clay 5-11-6 . . . . . Guy Lewis (3) –
611 3450 ROLFE 32 D Nicholson 6-11-6 . . . . . A P McCoy 89
612 00 SHALIK 36 O Brennan 6-11-6 . . . . . W Walsh (7) –
613 00 GOOD GOING GAME 45 W Jenks 5-11-1 . . . . . T Jenks –
614 5 SAKBAH 10 J Pickering 7-11-1 . . . . . T Dascombe (3) –
615 P-40 SONNAURA 12 P Wegmann 6-11-1 . . . . . S Fowler (7) –
616 10-0 THE ANGEL LEEK 68 (G) P Bevan 6-11-1 . . . . . W Worthington –

5-4 Country Star, 3-1 Rolfe, 4-1 Kurdistan, 8-1 The Angel Leek, 12-1 Lastofthedots, 20-1 Sonnaura, Good Going Game, 25-1 others

5.10 JENKINSONS CATERERS MAIDEN HURDLE (Div II: £1,942: 2m) (16)

1 D/P0 ALTHREY BLUE 34 P Lloyd 7-11-6 . . . . . S McNeill –
2 -00P BLACK STAG 20 M Williams 7-11-6 . . . . . C Llewellyn –
3 3060 EL FREDDIE 38 J Old 6-11-6 . . . . . G Upton 78
4 FREE TYSON 956F D Brennan 5-11-6 . . . . . M Brennan –
5 05 MARKET MAYHEM 292 T Watt 6-11-6 . . . . . R Massey (5) –
6 NESCAF C Mann 6-11-6 . . . . . A P McCoy –
7 020 PAST MASTER 28 C Broad 8-11-6 . . . . . G Bradley 89
8 -000 SILVER SUMAL 38 H Oliver 7-11-6 . . . . . Jacqui Oliver –
9 P-P SMART ACT 82 I Brown 7-11-6 . . . . . Mr A Brown –
10 1/0 VITAMAN 18 (F) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-6 . . . . . W Marston –
11 0 GREENACRES STAR 17 W Clay 6-11-1 . . . . . Guy Lewis (3) –
12 0P0 LARKS TAIL 24 P Webber 6-11-1 . . . . . R Bellamy –
13 P6P0 WOODLANDS ENERGY 20 P Pritchard 5-11-1 . . . . . R Davis 68
14 40 GROOMS GOLD 19F (B) P Hobbs 4-11-0 . . . . . G Tormey (3) 76
15 P03 CRAMBELLA 11 G Kelly 4-10-9 . . . . . L Donnelly (7) 78
16 0 WALK IN THE WILD 115 A Bailey 4-10-9 . . . . . T Reed –

2-1 Past Master, 4-1 El Freddie, 5-1 Crambella, 7-1 Vitaman, 8-1 Grooms Gold, 10-1 Nescaf, 12-1 Free Tyson, Market Mayhem, 20-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Old, 7 winners from 23 runners, 30.4%. M Pipe, 43 from 151, 28.5%. N Henderson, 7 from 26, 26.9%. M Tompkins, 6 from 22 27.3%. C Mann, 5 from 19, 26.3%. O Brennan, 6 from 25, 24.0%

JOCKEYS: G Tormey, 8 winners from 31 rides, 25.8%. M Brennan, 6 from 26, 23.1%. S McNeill, 11 from 51, 21.6%. G Bradley, 8 from 38 21.1%. J R Kavanagh, 7 from 40, 17.5%. A P McCoy, 5 from 29, 17.2%.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS OF EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICITY (INVESTMENTS) LIMITED 2826865
EAST MIDLANDS ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION SERVICES LIMITED 2826435
STATCO ONE LIMITED (FORMERLY W A BOULTING LIMITED) 444662
WES ELECTRICAL SERVICES LIMITED (FORMERLY WINCANTON ELECTRICAL SERVICES LIMITED) 672591
On 19 March 1996 the above companies were placed in members' voluntary liquidation and Richard James Rees of Price Waterhouse was appointed liquidator by the shareholders.
The liquidator gives notice under the provisions of Rule 4.182a of the Insolvency Act 1986 that the creditors of the companies must send details, in writing, of any claim against the company to the liquidator, at Price Waterhouse, Victoria House, 76 Milton Street, Nottingham, NG1 3QY by 3 May 1996, which is the last day for proving claims. The liquidator also gives notice that he will then make a final distribution to creditors and that a creditor who does not make a claim by the date mentioned will not be included in the distribution.
The companies are able to pay all their known creditors in full.
21 March 1996
R J Rees, Liquidator.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
IRWIN TOMLINSON LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 589308
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 10.15 am on 16 April 1996 at The Jarvis Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 8AG. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to AJP Brereton at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 27 March 1996.
AJP Brereton,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
WILLIAM IRWIN & CO (SOUTH) LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 1187168
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 3.00 pm on 16 April 1996 at The Jarvis Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 8AG. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to AJP Brereton at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 27 March 1996.
AJP Brereton,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
WILLIAM IRWIN & CO (EAST) LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 1282449
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 2.30 pm on 16 April 1996 at The Jarvis Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 8AG. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to AJP Brereton at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 27 March 1996.
AJP Brereton,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
COSMETIC CONSULTANTS LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on 23 APRIL 1996 at 4 CHARTERHOUSE SQUARE, LONDON EC1M 6EN at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Dorrington FIPA, of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2) (b) of the said Act who will furnish creditors, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.
DATED 2ND day of APRIL 1996.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
P.A. Whymant-Morris, Director.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
THE IRWIN GROUP LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 1433602
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 11.00 am on 16 April 1996 at The Jarvis Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 8AG. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to AJP Brereton at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 27 March 1996.
AJP Brereton,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
WILLIAM IRWIN & CO (NORTH) LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 1282460
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 12 noon on 16 April 1996 at The Jarvis Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 8AG. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to AJP Brereton at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12 noon on 16 April 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 27 March 1996.
AJP Brereton,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
ROWLAND AND HUNTLEY LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 840457
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 10.30 am on 16 April 1996 at The Jarvis Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 8AG. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to AJP Brereton at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 27 March 1996.
AJP Brereton,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
WILLIAM IRWIN & CO (MIDLANDS) LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 596395
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 2.00 pm on 16 April 1996 at The Jarvis Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 8AG. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to AJP Brereton at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 27 March 1996.
AJP Brereton,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
WILLIAM IRWIN & CO LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 976112
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 11.30 am on 16 April 1996 at The Jarvis Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 8AG. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to AJP Brereton at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 27 March 1996.
AJP Brereton,
Joint Administrative Receiver.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
BRADLORD LIMITED (IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 486892
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 48 (2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named company will be held at 10.00 am on 16 April 1996 at The Jarvis Parkway Hotel, Otley Road, Bramhope, Leeds, LS16 8AG. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the report prepared by the administrative receivers and, if the creditors think fit, appoint a committee of creditors.
Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge details in writing of the debt claimed to be due from the company to AJP Brereton at Price Waterhouse, York House, York Street, Manchester, M2 4WS by no later than 12 noon on 15 April 1996 together with any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf at the meeting. Any claims duly lodged will be admitted to vote subject to the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or to be represented at the meeting.
Creditors should note that the meeting is not being held for the purpose of appointing a liquidator to the company.
Dated this 27 March 1996
AJP Brereton,
Joint Administrative Receiver

NEWSPAPER REPRESENTATIONS LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Peter S Dunn FCA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the Creditors on 21st March 1996.
DATED 21ST MARCH 1996
Peter S Dunn, FCA Liquidator.

GEMINI CASH & CARRY LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that we, Peter S Dunn and Michael J C Oldham, Licensed Insolvency Practitioners of Latham Crossley & Davis, Sherrick House, 7 Kenrick Place London W1H 3FF, were appointed Joint Liquidators of the above company by The Court on 19th February 1996
DATED 19th February 1996
Peter S Dunn FCA Joint Liquidator

REVERSE AUCTION TENDERS LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of The Insolvency Rules 1986 notice is hereby given that I, Peter S Dunn FCA, a Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Latham Crossley & Davis, 7 Kenrick Place, London W1H 3FF, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the Creditors on 20th March 1996.
DATED 20TH MARCH 1996
Peter S Dunn FCA, Liquidator.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION ORDER
Minories Underwriting Agencies Ltd
Registered Number: 642061.
Nature of Business: Insurance.
Trade Classification: 8600
Administration Order Made: 1 April 1996. Administrator: Christopher Morris Deloitte & Touche PO Box 810 Hill House Little New Street London EC4A 3TR. Office Holder Number: 2377.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand is from the 1996 BBL Premier League match between Sowter and Kirby.

Dealer East — East-West game — IMP's

	♠A ♥AK1042 ♦4 ♣QJ7643	
♠KJ1073 ♥- ♦AKQ1087 ♣105	N W E S	♠Q8652 ♥5 ♦J963 ♣A98
	♠94 ♥QJ98763 ♦52 ♣K2	

W	N	E	S
Senior	Liggins	Sheehan	Dyson
—	—	Pass	3 H
4 H	5 H	5 S	Pass
6 S	7 H	Double	All Pass

Contract: Seven Hearts doubled, by South. Lead queen of diamonds

The traditional use of a cue-bid over a pre-empt was to show a massive hand, usually two-suited. But the old use of the bid came up rarely and now the standards required are not so high. In this auction West was full value for his Four Heart bid, which showed spades and a minor.

When North continued the pre-empt by raising to Five Hearts, I clearly had to bid Five Spades. With no-one really knowing who had what, Senior made the practical bid of Six Spades. This had two things going for it — it might make, or it might induce North to save.

I think Glyn Liggins took the sensible course when he went to Seven Hearts. It was quite likely that a heart would not stand up, and so he had no guarantee that Six Spades would fail. In practice Six Spades goes down if South leads a club, but makes otherwise — East can get rid of his losing clubs on West's fifth and sixth diamonds.

☐ For details of *The Times* Midland Private Banking National Bridge challenge, contact the event organisers on 0181-942 9506 or write to: Britannic Building, Beverley Way, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 4PH or fax to: 0181-942 9569

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Brilliant Sacrifices

The tournament in Amsterdam, won jointly by Kasparov and Topalov was packed with brilliant sacrificial games. In today's first example Topalov overruns Timman with a devastating kingside attack, while in the second the Dutch grandmaster Piket finds a most ingenious way to undermine the defences around the white king.

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Jan Timman
Amsterdam, March 1996

Caro-Kann Defence

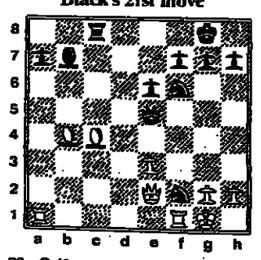
1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	Bf5
4	Nf3	e6
5	Be2	Nd7
6	0-0	h6
7	b3	Ne7
8	c4	Ng6
9	Na3	Nf4
10	Bd4	Bxa3
11	Bd3	Bg4
12	Rb1	Be7
13	h3	Bh5
14	Qe2	0-0
15	Qe3	a5
16	cxd5	cxd5
17	Bxh6	Bxf3
18	gxf3	Bh4
19	Kh1	f5
20	Rg1	Rf7
21	Bxg7	Rxg7
22	Qh6	Bg5
23	Qxe6+	Kh8
24	Qxd5	Qe7
25	Qg4	Nxe5
26	dxe5	Qxe6
27	Rbe1	Of4
28	Qh5+	Kg8
29	Rxg5	Rxg5
30	Qh7+	Kf8
31	Qh6+	Kf7
32	Bg6+	Black resigns

White: Joel Lautier
Black: Jeroen Piket
Amsterdam, March 1996

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	Qc2	d5
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	Qxc3	Ne4
7	Qc2	0-0
8	e3	b6
9	Bd3	Bb7
10	Nf3	c5
11	0-0	Nd7
12	b4	Ndf6
13	dxc5	bxc5
14	Bb2	cxb4
15	axb4	dxc4
16	Bxc4	Rc8
17	Qe2	Qb6
18	Ne5	Cxb4
19	Ba3	Qc3
20	Bxf8	Qxe5
21	Bb4	Nxf2

Diagram for position after Black's 21st move



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Feathered Gale has Sandown in sights

FROM OUR IRISH RACING CORRESPONDENT AT FAIRYHOUSE

JODAMI reserved his best performance of the season so far for the Jameson Irish National at Fairyhouse yesterday but he was denied another valuable victory in Ireland by Feathered Gale, who gave Arthur Moore his first success in this event as a trainer.

Moore won the race as a jockey on Kings Sprite in 1971, and he was clearly every bit as delighted yesterday and; as with Klairon Davis at the Cheltenham Festival, placed his trilby hat on Feathered Gale's head, amid raucous cheers, in the winner's enclosure.

"This is an ambition fulfilled. I have had so many placed horses in the race, including this fellow who was a gallant third last year. But the ground was perfect for him today and he is a better horse now than he was last year," Moore said.



Feathered Gale jumps ahead of Jodami at the last on his way to an emphatic victory at Fairyhouse yesterday

Feathered Gale, who won by eight lengths, looked to be in trouble after making a mistake five out. At this stage, the race looked to be between Jodami, who had been backed down to 5-1 favourite, Fergie Sutherland's Go Go Gallant and the Robert Alner-trained Cool Dawn, who had set a furious pace for much of the race.

However, on the turn for home, Cool Dawn began to weaken and Francis Woods drove Feathered Gale up to challenge Jodami.

Woods said: "I was always niggling and three fences out I thought the best I could do was to be placed, but he then seemed to get a new lease of life and from the second last he just ran away from them."

Moore said that Feathered Gale is a probable runner for the Whitbread Gold Cup at Sandown on April 27, when he could well clash with Jodami again.

Mark Dwyer was confident Jodami would win turning for home but reported that the horse got very tired. "He ran a blinder and it was a great training performance by Peter Beaumont to bring him back after all his problems," Dwyer added.

Cool Dawn ran a fine race for Conor O'Dwyer, who replaced owner Dido Harding in the saddle. They led on touching down over the first and remained prominent. "He tore over the next few fences as well and he gave me a super ride," O'Dwyer said. "I have no excuses and the horse really enjoyed it. He is better than a hunter."

Alner said that Cool Dawn is not yet finished for this term. "This is only his third race of the season so we will sit back and see what we can find for him. Conor gave him a lovely ride and let him do his own thing." Alner said.

Norman Conqueror, the Queen Mother's first runner in Ireland for 25 years, was in contention to two out but cracked a bone in his near-fore knee and was pulled up by Tommy Treacy. The injury requires pinning and an operation will be carried out locally today.

Richard Dunwoody was stood down for the rest of the meeting after taking a heavy fall from Lord Singapore in the big race, but he will be fit to ride Ventana Canyon in today's Power Gold Cup. Dwyer will also be staying on at Fairyhouse to ride the Jimmy Fitzgerald-trained Nijmegen in the Bisquit Cognac Handicap Hurdle.

BIG-RACE RESULT

Going: good

3.55 JAMESON IRISH NATIONAL CHASE (Handicap h£62,700: 3m 5f)

1, FEATHERED GALE (F Woods, 8-1); 2, Jodami (M Dwyer, 5-1 fav); 3, Cool Dawn (C O'Dwyer, 15-2); 4, Go Go Gallant (C Swan, 7-1). ALSO RAN 7 Fissure Seal (pu), Lord Singapore (f), 8 Son Of War (6th), 12 Another Excuse (5th), Flashing Steel (pu), 14 Minella Lad (f), 20 King Of The Gales, 25 Norman Conqueror (pu), 33 Camgeen Kema (pu), Friends Of Gerald (ur), Second Schedual (pu), 50 Captain Brandy (ur), Johneen 17 ran NR Anabaric, Suny Bay, Tartan Tyrant, The Crazy Bishop Wylde Hide 8l, 6l, 13l, 21:l, nk A Moore Tote: £9.10; £2.00, £2.00, £3.60, £1.80 DF £21.70 Tno £100.00 CSF £47.58 Tricast £299.58

RESULTS FROM 16 BANK HOLIDAY MEETINGS

Kempton Park

Going: good

1.40 (1m 2f) 1, Magnificent Style (W Ryan, 6-1); 2, Migwar (20-1); 3, Amheen (13-2). Private Song 11-10 fav, 15 ran 6l, nk, H Cecil. Tote: £7.20; £2.40, £3.40, £1.80. DF: £68.90 Tno: £70.90 CSF: £110.21.

2.10 (7f) 1, Regal Archive (J Reid, 9-4 fav); 2, State Of Caution (7-1); 3, Zygo (16-1), 17 ran, 1¾l, 1¾l, P Chapple-Hyam. Tote: £3.00; £1.90, £2.70, £3.40. DF: £15.90 Trio: £222.90 CSF: £18.18.

2.40 (1m 2f) 1, Samraan (W Carson, 8-1); 2, Clerkenwell (6-1); 3, Berenice (14-1) River Captain 5-1 fav, 14 ran, 1½l, 2½l, J Dunlop. Tote: £8.90; £2.80, £2.60, £6.50. DF: £22.10. Trio: £585.60 (part won; pool of £453.87 carried forward to 2.40 at Uttoxeter today). CSF: £57.47.

3.10 (6f) 1, Hard To Figure (R Cochrane, 11-2); 2, Easy Dollar (5-1); 3, The Puzzler (11-4 fav), 8 ran, Hd, 1½l, R Hodges. Tote: £6.90; £2.30, £2.10. DF: £14.50. CSF: £27.61.

3.40 (1m 2f) 1, Hazard A Guess (R Cochrane, 10-1); 2, Special Dawn (7-1 jf fav); 3, Hardy Dancer (25-1); 4, Beauchamp Jade (16-1). Sheer Danzig 7-1 jf-fav, 19 ran. NR: Statajack. ¾l, ¾l, D Nicholls. Tote: £12.20; £2.60, £2.20, £4.40, £4.70. DF: £44.60. Trio: £402.70. CSF: £75.73. Tricast: £1,601.52.

4.15 (1m 2f) 1, Lucky Di (M Hills, 11-2); 2, Star Selection (66-1); 3, Captain Horatius (5-1). Medalle Militaire 9-2 fav, 12 ran, 3l, 5l, L Cumani. Tote: £7.80; £2.50, £9.50, £2.10. DF: £410.70. Trio: £1,048.90. CSF: £217.79.

4.45 (6f) 1, Latching (J Reid, 12-1); 11, Seigneurial (A Clark, 12-1); 3, Face The Future (9-1); 4, Mister Joleon (20-1). Anzio 6-1 jf-fav, 25 ran. Dd-ht, 4l, R Johnson Houghton; G Harwood. Tote: Seigneurial £12.80, Latching £6.60; Seigneurial £4.40, Latching £3.70, £2.40; £4.20. DF: £56.40. Trio: £92.90. CSF: Seigneurial, Latching, £77.65; Latching, Seigneurial, Face The Future £410.65; Latching, Seigneurial, Face The Future £410.65.

5.15 (7f) 1, Thea (D Harrison, 7-2); 2, Civil Liberty (7-4 fav); 3, Frequent (10-1) 16 ran, 4l, 5l, J Fanshawe. Tote: £5.40; £1.70, £1.50, £2.90. DF: £6.10. Trio: £13.70. CSF: £11.15.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £19,705.02 carried forward to Uttoxeter today).

Placepot: £790.40. Quadpot: £107.60.

Newcastle

Going: good (good to firm in places)

2.25 (1m) 1, Green Bopper (G Faulkner, 13-2); 2, Tendad (9-2); 3, Ellie Force (7-1). Serendipity Evens fav, 12 ran, 2l, 2l, M Bell. Tote: £12.90; £2.90, £1.70, £2.10. DF: £22.20. Trio: £61.90. CSF: £38.66.

2.55 (5f) 1, Marathon Maid (A Culhane, 16-1); 2, Top Of The Wind (10-1); 3, Antonia's Choice (13-8 fav), 8 ran, 1½l, 1¾l, R Fahey. Tote: £40.90; £5.20, £2.70, £1.50. DF: £101.90. CSF: £161.81.

3.25 (1m) 1, Dance Of Joy (A Colgan, 33-1); 2, No Submission (8-1); 3, Langtonian (20-1); 4, Shareoftheaction (33-1) Ballard Lady 7-2 jf-fav, 18 ran. NR: To Prove A Point. ¾l, 4l, J Carr. Tote: £53.10; £8.40, £1.80, £3.70, £9.90. DF: £312.10. Trio: £270.30 (part won; pool of £342.74 carried forward to 2.40 at Uttoxeter today). CSF: £266.28. Tricast: £5,087.22.

3.55 (5f) 1, Kins (N Varley, 13-2); 2, Plum First (8-1); 3, La Suquet (20-1); 4, Captain Carat (8-1). Stuffed 4-1 fav, 19 ran, ¾l, 2l, J Eyre. Tote: £9.70; £1.80, £2.30, £5.90. DF: £33.20. Trio: £198.50. CSF: £83.62. Tricast: £549.33.

4.25 (1m 4f 89yd) 1, Athenry (G Bardwell, 1-2 fav); 2, Dissidowed (3-1); 3, Phar Closer (33-1) 5 ran, 10l, 25l, J Pearce. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £2.30. DF: £2.20. CSF: £2.75.

4.55 (7f) 1, Master Charter (K Fallon, 6-1); 2, Barrat of Hope (14-1); 3, Sagebrush Roller (8-1); 4, High Premium (8-1). Scarsben 5-1 fav, 20 ran, 3½l, 1l, Mrs J. Ramsden. Tote: £8.10; £1.80, £2.70, £3.10. £2.70. DF: £84.30. Trio: £225.70. CSF: £94.19. Tricast: £657.11.

Placepot: £108.90. Quadpot: £24.50.

Nottingham

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.20 (5f 13yd) 1, Folly Foot Fred (S Drowne, 8-1); 2, Dancing Star (9-1); 3, Chilled Wine (33-1). I Can't Remember 7-4 fav, 8 ran. NR: Tinker's Surprise 1l, 1½l, B Meehan. Tote: £12.60; £1.90, £1.90, £3.90. DF: £80.40. Trio: £84.00 (part won; pool of £72.21 carried forward to 2.40 at Uttoxeter today). CSF: £72.36.

2.50 (5f 13yd) 1, Fond Embrace (J Weaver, 11-2); 2, Pride Of Britain (Evens fav); 3, Watch The Fire (7-2), 11 ran. NR: Play The Tune, Spirit Of Sport. ¾l, 1½l, H Candy. Tote: £5.80; £1.30, £1.10, £2.30. DF: £4.90. Trio: £10.10. CSF: £13.72.

3.20 (6f 15yd) 1, Double Splendour (G Duffield, 9-2 fav); 2, Cretan Gift (5-1); 3, Bargash (7-1); 4, Musin't Grumble (10-1), 17 ran. NR: Prime Property. 4l, hd, P Felgate. Tote: £5.30; £1.40, £1.80, £3.10. £2.70. DF: £25.90. Trio: £206.10. CSF: £32.74. Tricast: £169.00.

3.50 (1m 1f 213yd) 1, General Macarthur (G Duffield, 6-1); 2, Nabhaan (8-1); 3, Montecristo (6-1). No Cliches 9-4 fav, 12 ran. Nk, 1¾l, J Dunlop. Tote: £9.30; £2.70, £1.80, £2.00. DF: £36.60. Trio: £105.30. CSF: £65.06. Tricast: £305.84.

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4.20 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, Stage Perilous (A Whelan, 4-1); 2, Dancing Cavalier (3-1); 3, Influence Peddler (11-1). Ballos 5-2 fav, 10 ran, 6l, 3l, C Dwyer. Tote: £7.70; £1.90, £1.70, £2.30. DF: £15.70. Tno: £83.30. CSF: £43.53. Tricast: £129.31. Atlantic Mist finished second, but after a stewards inquiry was disqualified and placed last.

4.50 (1m 54yd) 1, Winston (S Drowne, 25-1); 2, Cense (16-1), 3, Whispering Dawn (7-2 fav); 4, Fiona Shann (15-2), 19 ran. NR: Brigansone, ¾l, hd, J Bethell. Tote: £48.80; £6.30, £6.00, £1.40, £2.50. DF: £244.90. Tno: not won (pool of £265.39 carried forward to 2.40 at Uttoxeter today). CSF: £417.08. Tricast: £1,670.13.

Placepot: £809.90. Quadpot: £42.60.

Warwick

Going: good

2.35 (5l) 1, Connemara (J Stack, 7-4 fav); 2, Wait For Rosie (7-2), 3, Hello Dolly (15-2). 10 ran, 6l, 3l, C Dwyer. Tote: £4.40; £1.80, £1.80, £1.50. DF: £10.60. Tno: £20.90. CSF: £9.12.

3.05 (1m 2f 169yd) 1, Dhaulkhet (A Daly, 20-1); 2, Uoni (4-1); 3, Tintara (4-1). Ship's Dancer 11-10 fav, 12 ran, 7l, 2½l, D Marks. Tote: £23.20; £4.60, £1.70, £2.10. DF: £45.90. Trio: £57.80. CSF: £106.87. Tricast: £378.64.

3.35 (1m 2f 169yd) 1, Hand Of Straw (N Adams, 10-1); 2, Denomination (16-1); 3, Locorotondo (10-1). Domaspel 3-1 fav, 12 ran, ¾l, hd, P Murphy. Tote: £13.70; £3.60, £3.30, £3.20. DF: £924.50. Trio: not won (pool of £217.93 carried forward to 2.40 at Uttoxeter today). CSF: £147.93. Tricast: £1,510.88.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Wadada (D J Burchell, 9-1); 2, Jenzsoph (5-2); 3, Teal Match (6-1). Nordic Valley 7-4 fav, 10 ran, 3l, 3l, D Burchell. Tote: £12.40; £1.80, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £21.10. CSF: £31.88.

4.00 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Black Church (D O'Sullivan, 7-1); 2, Beau Babillard (15-2), 3, Channel Pastime (8-1). Tudor Rable 2-1 fav, 9 ran. NR: Mr President. 3l, 4l, R Rowe. Tote: £8.40; £2.50, £2.70, £1.70. DF: £20.30. CSF: £56.37. Tricast: £401.84.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Lead Vocalist (D O'Sullivan, 15-8); 2, Roegill (11-4); 3, Bayeayka (13-8 fav), 4 ran. NR: Supreme Master. ½l, 9l, R Rowe. Tote: £2.80. DF: £3.80. CSF: £7.16.

Placepot: £729.10. Quadpot: £972.10.

Chepstow

Going: firm

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Potentate (D Bridgwater, 11-8 fav); 2, Lady Peta (11-4); 3, Raphael Bodine (33-1), 12 ran. 1½l, 1¾l, M Pipe. Tote: £2.20; £1.30, £1.50, £6.50. DF: £9.30. CSF: £6.34.



Cochrane: Kempton double

2.30 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Absalom's Lady (A Procter, 5-1); 2, Backgammon (9-2); 3, Rubhahunish (14-1). Clifton Beat 6-4 fav, 7 ran, Hd, 4l, D Elsworth. Tote: £5.90; £2.70, £2.30. DF: £17.60. CSF: £27.00.

3.00 (3m ch) 1, Buck Willow (P Hide, 13-2); 2, Seod Rioga (9-2); 3, Mr Flanagan (9-4 jf-fav). Straight Talk 9-4 jf-fav, 6 ran, 1¾l, 5l, J Gifford. Tote: £5.80; £1.80, £2.70. DF: £16.80. CSF: £32.66.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Burchell, 9-1); 2, Jenzsoph (5-2); 3, Teal Match (6-1). Nordic Valley 7-4 fav, 10 ran, 3l, 3l, D Burchell. Tote: £12.40; £1.80, £1.80, £1.80. DF: £21.10. CSF: £31.88.

4.00 (2m 3f 110yd ch) 1, Black Church (D O'Sullivan, 7-1); 2, Beau Babillard (15-2), 3, Channel Pastime (8-1). Tudor Rable 2-1 fav, 9 ran. NR: Mr President. 3l, 4l, R Rowe. Tote: £8.40; £2.50, £2.70, £1.70. DF: £20.30. CSF: £56.37. Tricast: £401.84.

4.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Lead Vocalist (D O'Sullivan, 15-8); 2, Roegill (11-4); 3, Bayeayka (13-8 fav), 4 ran. NR: Supreme Master. ½l, 9l, R Rowe. Tote: £2.80. DF: £3.80. CSF: £7.16.

Placepot: £753.80. Quadpot: £122.10.

Hereford

Going: good to firm, firm in places

2.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Indian Jockey (R Farrant, 11-10 fav); 2, Cyrus The Great (5-4); 3, Tap On Toonse (8-1), 8 ran, 6l, 11l, M Pipe. Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £1.30, £1.90. DF: £1.80. CSF: £2.94.

3.05 (2m 3f ch) 1, Familiar Friend (Mr L Lay, 9-2); 2, Squarelisdaughter (3-1 fav); 3, Enchanted Man (14-1). 12 ran. NR: Trayford. 2l, 15l, S Gilmore. Tote: £5.30; £2.10, £3.40, £3.30. DF: £5.80. CSF: £17.78.

3.40 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Wrekengale (R Fenton, 13-8 fav), 2, Visaga (3-1); 3, Jason's Boy (5-1). 8 ran. 1½l, 5l, Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £2.60; £1.50, £1.50, £1.50. DF: £4.20. CSF: £7.77. Tricast: £20.23.

4.15 (3m 2f hdle) 1, Tookano (M Clarke, 12-1); 2, Forcing Two (2-1 fav); 3, Spa Kelly (25-1) 16 ran. 5l, 10l, D Williams. Tote: £28.50; £4.70, £1.90, £7.10. DF: £44.70. CSF: £41.01.

4.50 (2m ch) 1, Bone Setter (N Mann, 11-8); 2, Hawaiian Sam (11-10 fav); 3, Ravenspur (50-1) 7 ran. 1¾l, 20l, S Mellor. Tote: £2.20; £1.10, £1.90. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.19.

5.25 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Bright November (C Llewellyn, 7-4 fav); 2, Heart Of Spain (8-1); 3, Cathaill (12-1) 11 ran. NR: Ian's Bid. 9l, 1¾l, Mrs H Parrott. Tote: £2.60; £1.70, £2.50, £4.40. DF: £7.80. CSF: £14.02. Tricast: £97.91.

Placepot: £6.10. Quadpot: £3.30.

Huntingdon

Going: firm

2.00 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, General Jimbo (K Gaule, 9-2); 2, Forgetful (5-2 fav); 3, Calvay Prince (6-1) 8 ran, Hd, 1¾l, F Murphy. Tote: £6.60; £2.00, £1.60, £1.80. DF: £17.30. CSF: £16.39. Tricast: £63.84.

2.30 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Star Of David (J Ryan, 7-1); 2, Pierce (6-4); 3, Winspil (Evens fav), 5 ran, ¾l, 15l, Miss A Embiricos. Tote: £5.90; £1.90, £1.40. DF: £7.90. CSF: £18.20.

3.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Strong John (K Gaule, 11-4); 2, Pablo's Republic (10-1), 3, Chicago's Best (5-4 jf-fav). Pyramis Prince 6-4 jf-fav, 4 ran, 1½l, dist, G Hubbard. Tote: £3.00. DF: £8.60. CSF: £19.16.

3.30 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Armada (L Aspinall, 3-1); 2, Manerex (4-5 fav); 3, Young Pokey (2-1), 3 ran. NR: Puritan. 8l, dist, J Gifford. Tote: £3.30. DF: £1.90. CSF: £5.71.

4.05 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Pa D'Or (L Aspell, 5-2 fav); 2, Limosa (7-1); 3, Titus (9-2). 10 ran. ¾l, 7l, J Gifford. Tote: £3.70; £1.80, £2.20, £1.80. DF: £13.40. CSF: £21.85.

4.35 (3m ch) 1, Solo Gent (L Aspinall, 1-2 fav); 2, Raincheck (10-1); 3, Thibasian (13-2) 4 ran. 15l, 28l, A Jones. Tote: £1.50. DF: £6.40. CSF: £6.42.

5.05 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Swynford Pride (L Aspinall, 13-8 fav); 2, Barrie Stix (100-30); 3, Chief Gale (16-1). 8 ran. NR: Maggie Strait. 1½l, 4l, J Bottomley. Tote: £2.80; £1.30, £2.30, £2.60. DF: £6.20. CSF: £8.53.

Placepot: £209.50. Quadpot: £58.20.

Market Rasen

Going: good to firm, good in places

2.15 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Rudi's Pride (N Smith, 9-2); 2, Legalee (6-1); 3, Just For A Reason (2-1 fav), 9 ran, 4l, 4l, S Bell. Tote: £7.10; £1.80, £1.80, £1.20. DF: £83.70. CSF: £43.63.

2.45 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Slingsby (Mr J Culloty, 11-10 fav); 2, Monjerman (3-1); 3, Philharmonic (10-1). 14 ran. NR: Flower Of Nap, 2l, 2l, Miss H Knight. Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £1.50, £2.40. DF: £2.40. CSF: £6.24.

3.20 (2m 1f 110yd ch) 1, Belly Parson (Mr J Culloty, 10-1); 2, Rusty Air (6-1 fav); 3, Super Trucker (9-2). 6 ran. 15l, 8l, R Dickin. Tote: £13.90; £2.80, £1.50. DF: £8.00. CSF: £20.24.

3.55 (2m 3f 110yd hdle) 1, Grousemoor (Mr J Culloty, 11-2); 2, Nordic Sun (5-1); 3, Brantableberry (7-2). Tom Brodie 9-1 fav, 12 ran. 6l, 12l, Miss H Knight. Tote: £7.50; £2.60, £2.90, £1.70. DF: £22.60. CSF: £38.31. Tricast: £109.86.

4.35 (2m 3f ch) 1, Gilpa Valu (A Bates, 13-8 fav); 2, Full Of Fire (7-4), 3, Matt Reid (9-1) 4 ran. 1l, 27l, Mrs J Pitman. Tote: £2.40. DF: £2.10. CSF: £5.07.

5.10 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Jaunty June (R Bellamy, 25-1); 2, All On (6-4 fav); 3, Quneg (7-4). 9 ran. 3½l, 7l, B Eckley. Tote: £24.20; £2.90, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £33.50. CSF: £66.13.

Placepot: £11.90. Quadpot: £8.90.

Wetherby

Going: good

2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Welsh Mill (P Niven, 2-1), 2, Thursday Night (10-1); 3, Solomon's Dancer (Evens fav) 11 ran. 9l, 3½l, Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.10, £1.10, £1.70, £1.20. DF: £7.80. CSF: £23.82.

2.45 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, Earlymorning Light (B Harding, 4-1); 2, Aljadeer (5-4 fav); 3, Rebel King (8-1) 6 ran. NR: Monaughty Man. Hd, 2½l, G Richards. Tote: £5.30; £2.20, £1.80. DF: £9.90. CSF: £9.72.

3.15 (2m 7f 110yd hdle) 1, Demicolada (P Waggott, 14-1); 2, Don't Tell Judy (11-1); 3, Rua Ros (14-1), 4, D'Arblay Street (5-1 jf-fav). Monaru 5-1 jf-fav, 21 ran. NR: Amarn, Sierra Madrona, Theydon Pride. 9l, 4l, P Spottiswood. Tote: £30.30; £6.00, £2.80, £3.60. DF: £150. DF: £482.80. CSF: £188.42. Tricast: £2,111.83.

3.45 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Toogood To Be True (L Wyer, 2-1 fav); 2, Ali'z Alibi (3-1), 3, Wind Force (12-1) 7 ran. 2½l, 16l, T Easterby. Tote: £2.90; £1.80, £1.90. DF: £4.60. CSF: £8.89.

4.15 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Ruaimit (J Callaghan, 5-2 fav), 2, Russian Castle (11-4); 3, His Way (100-30) 7 ran. NR: Cusvall Crossett. 2l, 22l, I Tate. Tote: £3.50; £2.30, £1.60. DF: £3.80.

4.45 (2m hdle) 1, Highbank (Mr M H Naughton, 2-1 fav), 2, Lowawatha (33-1); 3, Teejay'n'aitch (8-1) 14 ran. 2l, 3l, Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £3.70; £1.90, £14.20, £2.20. DF: £264.50. CSF: £66.61. Tricast: £461.67.

Placepot: £21.80. Quadpot: £20.80.

Wincanton

Going: good to firm, firm in places

2.00 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Gysart (O Burrows, 6-1), 2, Dream Here (7-2); 3, Bonda Blakeney (33-1). Easy Breezy 4-5 fav, 6 ran. 5l, 8l, M Pipe. Tote: £4.80; £2.10, £2.20. DF: £9.20. CSF: £25.31.

2.30 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, General Crack (A P McCoy, 11-10 fav), 2, Tearful Prince (33-1); 3, Lyme Gold (13-8) 7 ran. 10l, 20l, P Nicholls. Tote: £2.40; £1.80, £5.80. DF: £47.70. CSF: £26.78.

3.00 (2m hdle) 1, Tonys Gift (O Burrows, 6-1 fav); 2, Severn Gale (10-1), 3, Tony's Mist (11-1) 7 ran. 2½l, 6l, M Pipe. Tote: £2.40; £1.60, £3.40. DF: £12.70. CSF: £15.97.

3.30 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Blasket Hero (A P McCoy, 13-8); 2, Quiet Dawn (6-4 fav), 3, Coeur Battard (25-1) 5 ran. 3l, 12l, Mrs S Williams. Tote: £2.90; £1.40, £1.70. DF: £3.20. CSF: £4.89.

4.00 (2m chi 1, Spinning Steel (S Burrough, 4-5 fav), 2, Evening Rain (5-1), 3, Young Snuglit (9-4) 4 ran. 3l, 25l, P Rodford. Tote: £2.20. DF: £5.60. CSF: £5.75.

4.30 (2m hdle) 1, Decide Yourself (A P McCoy, 11-8); 2, The Bounder (11-10 fav); 3, Mutley (7-1) 9 ran. NR: Trelawneys Dream. 1l, 9l, T Thomson Jones. Tote: £2.60, £1.50, £1.40. DF: £1.90. CSF: £3.48.

Placepot: £56.80. Quadpot: £8.00.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.00 Swordking. 2.30 Jaraab. 3.00 Jean De Florette. 3.30 Seeking Destiny. 4.00 Born A Lady. 4.30 Folst.

GOING: STANDARD SIS

DRAW: 6F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.00 STARLING APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(£2,410: 1m 6f) (8 runners)

1 6123 TEMPERING 22 (C,F,G) D Chapman 10-9-10 ..... G Faulkner 4
2 -414 SHARP GAZELLE 67 (C,F,G) B Smart 6-9-4 ..... M Semple (4) 5
3 00-6 PARK RIDGE 10 T Mills 4-8-9 ..... D Tooke 7
4 2344 GREEK NIGHT OUT 13 (C,F,G) J Eyre 5-8-8 .. D Sweeney (4) 6
5 3210 RECORD LOVER 53 (C,G) M Chapman 6-8-6 .. R Fincham (6) 3
6 3633 SWORDKING 24 (V,D,F,G,S) J L Harris 7-8-3 ..... D Denby 2
7 0403 ARECIBO 10 J Parkes 4-7-10 ..... R Mullen (4) 8
8 00-0 CHARMED LIFE 14 (B,G,S) Mrs A King 7-7-10 J Bramhill (4) 1

9-4 Greek Night Out, 3-1 Swordking, Tempering, 4-1 Sharp Gazelle, 12-1 others

2.30 SWAN CLAIMING STAKES (£2,381: 2m) (7)

1 1112 HEATHYARDS ROCK 24 (C,BF,G) R Hollinshead 4-9-4 T Ives 3
2 -006 BOBBY BLUE 31 (D,F) Ronald Thompson 5-9-0 P Fessey (5) 4
3 4120 BULGGY 14 (CD,G,S) K Burke 9-9-0 ..... D R McCabe (3) 6
4 -410 JARAAB 14 (V,D,BF,G) G Lewis 5-9-0 ..... S Whitworth 7
5 2434 BAHER 31 Mrs A Swinbank 7-8-12 ..... J Fortune 5
6 -09- CIRACUSA 344 J Mackie 4-8-11 ..... N Varley (3) 1
7 500- LE TEMERAIRE 145 (C,F,G) E Incisa 10-8-5 ..... Kim Tinkler 2

8-4 Heathyards Rock, 7-4 Jaraab, 4-1 Fufogy, 8-1 Ciracusa, 16-1 others

3.00 HERON MAIDEN HANDICAP
(£3,234: 1m 3f) (12)

1 400- ZIDAC 281 P Makin 4-10-0 ..... S Sanders 6
2 00-4 FRANKLY FRAN 12 D Arbuthnot 4-9-2 ..... S Whitworth 3
3 -264 NAUTICAL JEWEL 10 M Usher 4-9-0 ..... M Wigham 12
4 4203 PARKLIFE 48 (V) P Haslam 4-8-4 ..... J Fortune 9
5 20-0 BUCKLEY BOYS 17J (B) A Bailey 5-8-2 ..... B Wright (3) 11
6 0235 CAROL AGAIN 22 N Bycroft 4-7-11 ..... J Quinn 10
7 700- GREY KINGDOM 287 M Britain 5-7-10 ..... G Bardwell 5
8 600- JEAN DE FLORETTE 182 R Spicer 5-7-10 ..... N Kennedy 2
9 60-5 MILLTOWN CLASSIC 8 J Parnes 4-7-10 ..... N Carlisle 8
10 0500 PARDONMAISA 7 (V) J L Harris 4-7-10 ..... F Norton 1
11 60-0 JARROW 85 (V) Mrs A Naughton 5-7-10 ..... P Fessey (5) 4
12 0-04 WELCOME LU 8 P Felgate 3-7-10 ..... Iona Wands (7) 7

6-4 Frankly Fran, 4-1 Carol Again, 6-1 Welcome Lu, 8-1 Parklife, Zidac, 10-1 Nautical Jewel, 12-1 Pardonmaisa, 14-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Johnston, 35 winners from 189 runners, 19%; D Arbuthnot, 6 from 38, 15.8%; K Burke, 11 from 70, 15.7%; A Bailey, 11 from 76, 14.5%; S Bowring, 42 from 292, 14.4%, J Berry, 33 from 236, 14.0%.

JOCKEYS: D Denby, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%, T Ives, 24 from 129, 18.6%, J Weaver, 43 from 240, 17.9%, J Fortune, 24 from 148, 16.2%, F Lynch, 10 from 64, 15.6%, K Fallon, 21 from 137, 15.3%.

3.30 PEACOCK HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £2,381: 7f) (12)

1 1622 DOMDOR 11 (D,BF,G) M Johnston 9-7 ..... J Weaver 2
2 400- TROPICAL BEACH 168 (G) J Berry 9-6 ..... P Roberts (5) 5
3 800- HAWK-A-CHIEF 188 B Smart 9-6 ..... R Cochrane 3
4 2343 ERPETTE 7 (C,G) N Byercft 8-11 ..... G Bardwell 10
5 1005 SEEKING DESTINY 8 (C,F,G,S) M Chapman 8-10 ..... C Munday (7) 12
6 3650 SCENICRIS 43 R Hollinshead 8-8 ..... N Carlisle 9
7 0-00 THE FULLBANGLADESH 43 J Eyre 8-5 ..... R Lappin 8
8 000- HAWKSLEY HILL 137 Mrs J Ramsden 8-5 ..... K Fallon 4
9 064- HOLLOWAY MELODY 137 B McMahon 8-3 ..... L Newton (5) 6
10 05-0 MAGICAL MIDNIGHT 7 N Tinkler 9-0 ..... Kim Tinkler 11
11 6003 DOWN THE YARD 31 (F) M Chapman 7-12 .. P Fessey (5) 7
12 00-0 AUTOFYR 6 J Wainwright 7-10 ..... L Charnock 1

3-1 Domdor, 4-1 Seeking Destiny, 9-2 Erpette, 7-1 Scenicris, 8-1 Down The Yard, 10-1 Hawksley Hill, 12-1 others.

4.00 JAY SELLING STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,070: 6f) (15)

1 0310 NITEOWL RAIDER 13 (D,G) J A Harris 9-2 ..... J O'Reilly 8
2 0251 THE FRISKY FARMER 12 (D,F,G,S) W G M Turner 9-2 ..... A Clark 15
3 36-1 AMOSIA 8 (CD,G) J Berry 8-11 ..... P Fessey (5) 14
4 20-4 APRIL'S JOY 13 (F) J Hetton 8-11 ..... Dale Gibson 10
5 0-0 AYE READY 14 Miss L Perratt 8-11 ..... G Duffield 5
6 4-48 BORN A LADY 82 (B,C,G) S Bowring 8-11 .. C Teague (5) 1
7 00- PONSECAST 242 J Wharton 8-11 ..... J Quinn 12
8 6 GOLDBORNE LAD 7 J Balding 8-11 ..... J Edmunds (7) 13
9 0060 MONKEY ZANTY 7 (D,G,S) J L Harris 8-11 ..... S Sanders 3
10 -055 SHANODRA 17 (V,C,G) Mrs M Macauley 8-11 ..... Amanda Sanders (5) 11
11 0-04 SHARP MONTY 12 (BF) R Hollinshead 8-11 ..... W Ryan 4
12 0 SHARNIC 17 Mrs M Reveley 8-11 ..... J Fanning 9
13 000- THORNTOWN JEWEL 192 (B,D,F) J Balding 8-11 N Adams 6
14 00- INCA BIRD 175 B Mchlinnon 8-6 ..... L Newton (5) 2
15 0 RAGTIME COWGIRL 14 C Thornton 8-6 ..... D McKeown 7

5-2 Anzacba, 4-1 Nitcowl Raider, 5-1 The Frisky Farmer, 7-1 Monkey Zanty, 8-1 Sharp Monty, Born A Lady, April's Joy, 10-1 others

4.30 PUFFIN HANDICAP
(£2,381: 6f) (15)

1 0411 ELTON LEDGER 8 (B,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 7-10-7 (7ex) ..... J Tate 11
2 2341 AWESOME VENTURE 8 (C,G,S) M Chapman 6-10-6 (7ex) ..... C Munday (7) 10
3 30-0 PERFECT BRAVE 25 (D,F) J Balding 5-9-11 J Edmunds (7) 14
4 1244 SWEET MATE 25 (B,CD,BF,G) S Bowring 4-9-11 ..... C Teague (5) 12
5 5310 BOLD ARISTOCRAT 22 (CD,G) R Hollinshead 5-9-5 ..... F Lynch (5) 8
6 0-52 SOUND THE TRUMPET 16 (G) R Spicer 5-9-5 D McKeown 3
7 9-11 FOIST 7 (CD,G) M W Easterby 4-8-12 (7ex) ..... J Quinn 6
8 040- ADAMTON 149 Mrs J Ward 4-8-10 ..... T Ives 1
9 -603 TILLY OWL 8 (G) J A Harris 5-8-7 ..... J O'Reilly 15
10 4450 GREEN'S BID 26 (D,F,G) D Chapman 6-8-0 .. L Charnock 13
11 0-60 YOUNG BEN 38 J Wainwright 4-8-0 ..... A Mackay 9
12 0-04 BLUE LUCIANA 7 N Bycroft 4-8-0 ..... G Bardwell 5
13 600- SUNDAY MAIL TOO BIG (G) Miss L Perratt 4-7-12 J Fanning 2
14 000- STRATHTORE DREAM 90 Miss L Perratt 5-7-11 P Fessey (5) 7
15 000- RANKAIDADE 172 (S) E Incisa 5-7-10 ..... Kim Tinkler 4

7-2 Foist, 5-1 Elton Ledger, 6-1 Awesome Venture, Perfect Brave, 8-1 Sweet Mate, Sound The Trumpet, Tilly Owl, 10-1 others.

WETHERBY

THUNDERER

2.20 Potter's Bay	3.50 Beaurepaire
2.50 Newlands-General	4.20 The Major General
3.20 Erzadjan	4.50 Shining Edge
Carl Evans: 4.20 Copper Thistle.	5.20 PUREVALUE (nap)

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Rebuzzini) S Holt 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse

The players' weekly and overall scores and their values if you are considering the transfer option

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
10101	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1	-12
10102	B Mimms	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-1
10201	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	-3	+36
10203	A Coton	Manchester United	2.50	0	0
10301	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-21
10302	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
10303	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	1.50	0	0
10401	D James	Liverpool	3.50	-6	+47
10402	A Warner	Liverpool	0.25	0	0
10501	J Lukic	Leeds United	3.00	+2	-7
10502	M Beeney	Leeds United	0.75	0	-9
10601	P Smicek	Newcastle United	3.00	-7	-5
10602	M Hooper	Newcastle United	1.00	0	0
10603	S Hislop	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	+3
10701	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-3	+2
10702	E Thorstvedt	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
10801	A Roberts	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	0	-7
10802	S Dykstra	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	0
10803	J Sommer	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-3	-46
10901	H Segers	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-7
10902	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	0.75	-1	-23
10903	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-38
11001	B Grobbelaar	Southampton	1.50	+5	+5
11002	D Beasant	Southampton	0.75	-1	-28
11101	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+8
11102	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	1.00	-3	-15
11201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-1	+29
11202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.50	0	0
11301	K Pressman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-5	-46
11302	C Woods	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-6
11401	L Miklosko	West Ham United	2.50	-1	-12
11402	L Sealey	West Ham United	0.50	0	-5
11501	N Southall	Everton	2.50	+5	+2
11502	J Kearton	Everton	0.75	0	0
11601	S Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50	+5	-33
11602	J Gould	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
11603	J Filan	Coventry City	1.50	0	-35
11702	A Dibble	Manchester City	2.50	0	0
11703	E Immel	Manchester City	2.00	-5	-41
11801	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	2.50	-1	+29
11803	M Oakes	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
11901	A Miller	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+3
11902	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	0.75	-1	-13
12001	K Branagan	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-68
12002	A Davison	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	-6
12003	G Ward	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-5	-5

FULL BACKS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
20101	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+20
20102	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+3
20103	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+29
20104	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	0
20201	D Irwin	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+37
20202	P Parker	Manchester United	2.50	0	+1
20203	G Neville	Manchester United	2.50	-2	+20
20204	P Neville	Manchester United	0.75	-1	+35
20301	S Pearce	Nottingham Forest	4.50	-1	+29
20302	D Lyttle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+21
20303	A Haaland	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	-13
20401	R Jones	Liverpool	3.00	-2	+54
20402	S Bjornebye	Liverpool	3.00	0	+4
20403	S Harkness	Liverpool	0.75	0	+30
20501	T Dorigo	Leeds United	3.50	0	+15
20502	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	+3	+22
20503	N Worthington	Leeds United	1.50	0	-4
20601	J Beresford	Newcastle United	3.00	-3	+12
20603	W Barton	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+24
20701	D Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+12
20702	J Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+3
20703	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	-1	+38
20704	D Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00	0	0
20705	C Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	-1	+19
20801	D Bardsley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	-1	-12
20802	R Brevett	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	-1	-3
20803	N Zelic	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	-3
20804	T Challis	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	0	-1
20901	A Kimble	Wimbledon	2.50	0	-4
20902	G Elkins	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-8
20903	K Cunningham	Wimbledon	1.50	0	-18
20904	R Joseph	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
21001	J Dodd	Southampton	1.50	+4	+19
21002	F Benali	Southampton	1.00	+4	+6
21003	S Charlton	Southampton	1.00	0	+8
21101	S Clarke	Chelsea	1.50	0	+11
21102	S Minto	Chelsea	1.50	-1	+2
21104	A Myers	Chelsea	0.50	-1	+12
21105	T Phelan	Chelsea	1.50	0	+6
21106	D Petrescu	Chelsea	2.50	-1	+21
21201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	0	+48
21202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+46
21203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.50	0	+4
21302	I Nolan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-9
21303	P Atherton	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	-2	-19
21304	D Stefanovic	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	-4
21401	J Dicks	West Ham United	3.50	+3	+22
21402	T Breacker	West Ham United	3.00	0	-9
21403	K Brown	West Ham United	0.75	0	+3
21404	K Rowland	West Ham United	0.75	-1	+15
21501	G Ablett	Everton	2.50	0	+10
21502	E Barrett	Everton	2.50	0	+4
21503	M Jackson	Everton	1.50	0	+11
21505	M Hottiger	Everton	3.00	+7	+6
21601	D Burrows	Coventry City	1.50	0	-3
21602	A Pickering	Coventry City	1.00	+4	+5
21603	S Morgan	Coventry City	0.75	0	0
21604	M Hall	Coventry City	0.75	0	-23
21702	R Edghill	Manchester City	1.50	0	-1
21704	J Foster	Manchester City	0.75	0	-1
21706	M Frontzeck	Manchester City	1.50	-1	-11
21801	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+43
21802	S Staunton	Aston Villa	4.50	-1	+12
21803	A Wright	Aston Villa	2.50	0	+53
21804	P King	Aston Villa	0.50	0	0
21901	C Blackmore	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-7
21902	N Cox	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+25
21903	C Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	+16
21904	C Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	+3
21905	Branco	Middlesborough	2.50	0	0
22001	G Bergsson	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-2	-8
22002	S Green	Bolton Wanderers	0.25	0	-9
22003	J Philips	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	-3	-19
22004	A Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	-6
22005	S McAnespie	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	+1
22006	B Small	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
30101	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.50	0	+25
30102	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+3
30103	N Marker	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+5
30104	A Reed	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
30105	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	+15
30201	S Bruce	Manchester United	4.50	-1	+46
30202	G Pallister	Manchester United	4.50	0	+27
30203	D May	Manchester United	1.50	0	+10
30301	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.50	-1	+25
30302	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	+13
30401	P Babb	Liverpool	3.00	0	+38
30402	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.50	-2	+37
30403	J Scales	Liverpool	3.50	-2	+37
30404	M Wright	Liverpool	1.00	-1	+46
30405	D Matteo	Liverpool	0.75	0	+4
30501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	3.50	+3	+23
30502	C Palmer	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+17
30503	J Pemberton	Leeds United	1.50	0	-7
30505	P Beesley	Leeds United	1.00	0	+13
30506	R Jobson	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
30601	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.00	-3	+21
30602	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	-2	+26
30603	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	-1	+19
30701	G Mabbutt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+33
30702	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+26
30703	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	-1	-5
30704	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	0	0
30705	J Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0



David Platt made life difficult for his team, Fantasina, by including players from struggling Premiership teams

The pros and cons of ITF play

Alix Ramsay takes a look at some of the leading teams entered by PFA members

THERE are but a handful of games left to decide the winners and losers in both the FA Carling Premiership and Interactive Team Football (ITF). And while the 200,000 plus competitors in the ITF jostle for position, studying the form, fixtures and tea leaves to squeeze the maximum number of points from the remaining games, the professionals in the PFA league are far more relaxed about their fate.

Barring accident, disqualification or act of God, Jan Molby's Danish Dynamite will win the £5,000 cheque for the players' Benevolent Fund.

Molby has been leading since Christmas and now has moved 48 points ahead of the field. Simon Webster from West Ham and Mark Powell from Bolton Wanderers have been doing their best to turn it into a three-horse race but have been nobbled by expensive but goal-shy strikers.

What remains is the race for the minor placings, not so much to earn a place in Europe but to save the barracking in the dressing room. Making a late charge for respectability is David Platt's selection. Fantasina. Having spent much of the season lurking in the anonymity of mid-table — his team probably weighed down by a name that sounds like a cross between a Walt Disney movie and an orange drink — Fantasina have finally shaken themselves up and are heading for the top 10. Currently lying in 12th place with 366 points, they are a mere five points behind Steve Clarke's JC's Superstars in 10th.

Platt hardly made things easy for himself with the inclusion of Richard Sneekes and Andy Impey from the relagation contenders, Bolton and Queens Park Rangers. Add to that the problems over Marc Hottiger and his work permit and the collapse of Leeds — Platt's £3 million outlay on Carlton Palmer has gained him just 15 points — and Fantasina was in trouble early on.

Strangely enough, it is the players who have had a rough ride this season who have done well in the ITF. Obviously months of clinging to the bottom of the Premiership and staring Endsleigh Division one in the face focusses the mind.

At the other end of the table, the Newcastle boys, all nine of them, have learned little from their boss. Kevin Keegan. Then again, Messrs Beresford, Beardsley, Albert and friends have a paltry £35 million to spend on their teams. The way Keegan spends money, that is no more than petty cash.

HOW THE PROFESSIONALS' ITF TEAMS ARE FARING

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Danish Dynamite	(J Molby)	471	16	Whittys Winners	(S Whittaker)	358
2	West Shambles Utd	(S Webster)	423	17	The Crazy Boys	(N McDonald)	357
3	Nash FC	(M Powell)	405	18	Mbi's	(D Peacock)	356
4	Rattus Norvegicus	(S Pearce)	391	19	Dodgy Barnets Eleven	(J Beresford)	351
5	Cadburys Busst	(D Busst)	389	20	J & F FC	(J Beresford)	349
6	Teds XI	(B Horne)	383	21	The Fab 12	(F Detretas)	349
7	Dred Select	(S Morgan)	382	22	Pure Silk	(T Sinclair)	348
8	Macs Moodies	(A McDonald)	379	23	The Bluenoses	(J Spencer)	346
9	The Ruff Necks	(R Fox)	375	24	Bulldock Toon	(S Stone)	344
10	JC's Superstars	(S Clarke)	371	25	Guango Utd	(B Borrows)	342
11	Southcote Old Boys	(M Allen)	369	26	Barkers Follies	(S Barker)	341
12	Fantasina	(D Platt)	366	27	Ryton Raiders	(G Gallespie)	340
13	The Moody Blues	(N Spackman)	365	28	Kansas City Kings	(T Breaker)	338
14	The Travellers	(L Hurst)	363	28	Bruces Bonus	(A Hinchcliffe)	338
15	Poeivo	(M Kennedy)	360	30	Eleven From Heaven	(A Limpar)	337

MIDFIELD PLAYERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40308	S Howe	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
40401	S McManaman	Liverpool	6.50	+2	+73
40402	J Redknapp	Liverpool	2.50	+2	+26
40403	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	+2	+58
40405	M Thomas	Liverpool	1.50	0	+28
40409	M Kennedy	Liverpool	2.00	0	+1
40411	J McAteer	Liverpool	4.00	+1	+47
40501	G McAllister	Leeds United	4.00	+3	+59
40502	G Speed	Leeds United	4.00	+3	+41
40503	R Wallace	Leeds United	2.50	0	+23
40505	L Radebe	Leeds United	0.75	+2	+9
40506	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+3
40507	A Couzens	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
40508	M Ford	Leeds United	1.00	0	+9
40601	R Lee	Newcastle United	4.50	+2	+52
40603	D Ginola	Newcastle United	4.50	+3	+42
40604	K Gillespie	Newcastle United	4.00	0	+30
40605	L Clark	Newcastle United	1.50	0	+35
40607	S Watson	Newcastle United	1.50	+2	+20
40608	C Holland	Newcastle United	0.75	0	0
40609	R Elliott	Newcastle United	0.75	0	+1
40610	D Batty	Newcastle United	1.50	+1	+33
40701	D Anderton	Tottenham Hotspur	6.50	0	+3
40702	D Howells	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+34
40703	J Dozzell	Tottenham Hotspur	0.75	+1	+28
40705	G McMahon	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	+7
40707	R Fox	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+1	+50
40708	A Sinton	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	+1	+18
40801	S Barker	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	0	+33
40802	I Holloway	Queens Park Rangers	2.50	+3	+23
40803	A Impey	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1	+36
40805	T Sinclair	Queens Park Rangers	3.00	+1	+41
40808	G Goodridge	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+1
40809	N Quashie	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	+9
40810	M Brazier	Queens Park Rangers	0.75	0	0
40901	V Jones	Wimbledon	2.00	+2	+19
40902	R Earle	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+52
40903	M Gayle	Wimbledon	1.50	+1	+39
40904	O Leonhardsen	Wimbledon	2.50	0	+42
40905	N Ardley	Wimbledon	0.75	+1	+1
40906	P Fear	Wimbledon	0.75	0	+3
41001	J Magilton	Southampton	3.00	0	+51
41002	N Maddison	Southampton	2.00	0	+17
41003	N Heaney	Southampton	2.50	+1	+18
41005	D Hughes	Southampton	0.75	+2	+8
41006	T Widdrington	Southampton	1.00	+3	+28
41007	B Venison	Southampton	1.50	0	+20
41008	M Walters	Southampton	1.50	0	+7
41101	D Wise	Chelsea	5.00	0	+49
41102	R Gullitt	Chelsea	4.00	+1	+52
41103	G Peacock	Chelsea	3.00	0	+39
41104	D Rocastle	Chelsea	1.50	0	+1
41105	N Spackman	Chelsea	0.75	0	+9
41106	C Burley	Chelsea	1.00	+1	+17
41108	E Newton	Chelsea	0.75	0	+32
41201	G Helder	Arsenal	4.00	0	+25
41202	P Merson	Arsenal	4.00	+1	+57
41204	R Parlour	Arsenal	2.00	0	+17
41205	E McGoldrick	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
41206	D Hillier	Arsenal	1.00	0	+6
41207	J Jensen	Arsenal	1.00	0	+16
41208	D Platt	Arsenal	4.50	+1	+40
41209	A Clarke	Arsenal	1.50	0	+2
41301	J Sheridan	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+10
41303	C Waddle	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+32
41304	G Hyde	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+17
41305	K Ingesson	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+5
41306	R Jones	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	0
41307	M Williams	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0	+2
41308	L Briscoe	Sheffield Wednesday	0.75	0	+16
41309	M Pembridge	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+3	+28
41401	J Moncur	West Ham United	3.00	0	+19
41405	I Bishop	West Ham United	1.50	+1	+45
41406	D Gordon	West Ham United	1.00	0	0
41409	R Slater	West Ham United	1.00	0	+21
41410	S Lazarides	West Ham United	1.00	0	+2
41411	M Hughes	West Ham United	2.00	+1	+37
41412	D Williamson	West Ham United	1.00	+1	+27
41413	I Dumitrescu	West Ham United	4.00	0	+7
41501	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	5.00	+2	+30
41502	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+33
41503	A Limpar	Everton	2.50	0	+27
41504	B Horne	Everton	1.50	+2	+26
41505	V Samways	Everton	1.50	0	+5
41506	J Parkinson	Everton	1.00	+2	+37
41508	A Grant	Everton	0.50	+2	+14
41509	A Kanchelskis	Everton	6.00	+4	+66
41602	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+29
41603	G Strachan	Coventry City	1.50	0	+3
41607	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+34
41608	M Isaias	Coventry City	3.00	0	+9
41609	C Batista	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
41610	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	-1	+43
41702	P Beagrie	Manchester City	3.00	0	+3
41703	S Lomas	Manchester City	1.50	0	+38
41704	I Brightwell	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+21
41706	N Summerbee	Manchester City	1.50	0	+37
41707	G Kinkladze	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+51
41708	N Clough	Manchester City	1.50	+1	+22
41709	C Brown	Manchester City	1.00	0	+1
41801	A Townsend	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+37
41802	I Taylor	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+34
41803	G Southgate	Aston Villa	2.00	0	+46
41805	F Carr	Aston Villa	0.50	0	+4
41806	M Draper	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+58
41901	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+28
41902	A Moore	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+1
41903	J Moreno	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+2
41904	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	0.75	+1	+26
41905	J Pollock	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	+34
41906	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+2
41907	Juninho	Middlesbrough	5.00	+1	+22
42002	D Lee	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11
42003	A Thompson	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+15
42007	W Burnett	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	0	0
42008	S Sellars	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+30
42009	S Curcic	Bolton Wanderers	1.50	+1	+28

FORWARDS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
50101	A Shearer	Blackburn Rovers	10.00	+1	+87
50102	C Sutton	Blackburn Rovers	7.00	0	+7
50103	M Newell	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+1	+24
50104	K Gallacher	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+15
50105	N Goodm'dsson	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1
50201	E Cantona	Manchester United	7.50	+3	+62
50202	A Cole	Manchester United	7.00	+2	+54
50203	B McClair	Manchester United	3.00	0	+17
50204	P Scholes	Manchester United	2.50	0	+34
50301	B Roy	Nottingham Forest	6.00	+1	+41
50302	K Campbell	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	+35
50303	J Lee	Nottingham Forest	1.50	+1	+23
50305	A Silenzi	Nottingham Forest	3.50	0	+7
50306	P McGregor	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	0
50401	R Fowler	Liverpool	8.00	+6	+102
50402	S Collymore	Liverpool	7.50	+6	+63
50403	I Rush	Liverpool	3.00	0	+19
50501	A Yeboah	Leeds United	7.50	0	+53
50502	B Deane	Leeds United	2.50	+6	+40
50503	P Masinga	Leeds United	1.50	0	+3
50506	T Brolin	Leeds United	5.00	+2	+21
50601	L Ferdinand	Newcastle United	8.00	+3	+77
50602	P Beardsley	Newcastle United	5.00	+5	+42
50603	P Kitson	Newcastle United	2.50	0	+7
50604	M Allen	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50605	D Huckerby	Newcastle United	0.50	0	0
50606	F Asprilla	Newcastle United	6.50	+4	+12
50701	E Sheringham	Tottenham Hotspur	6.00	+1	+77
50702	C Armstrong	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00	+3	+63
50704	R Rosenthal	Tottenham Hotspur	1.50	0	+31
50801	K Gallen	Queens Park Rangers	4.50	+1	+31
50803	D Dichio	Queens Park Rangers	1.50	+1	+30
50805	M Hateley	Queens Park Rangers	2.00	0	+10
50901	D Holdsworth	Wimbledon	4.00	+1	+45
50902	J Goodman	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+31
50903	M Harford	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+18
50904	G Blissett	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
50905	A Clarke	Wimbledon	0.75	+1	+14
50906	E Ekoku	Wimbledon	2.50	+1	+42
50907	J Euell	Wimbledon	1.50	0	+2
51001	M Le Tissier	Southampton	8.00	+4	+33
51002	N Shipperley	Southampton	2.50	+2	+57
51003	G Watson	Southampton	2.00	+1	+26
51101	M Hughes	Chelsea	4.00	0	+34
51102	M Stein	Chelsea	2.50	0	+6
51103	J Spencer	Chelsea	2.50	+3	+43
51104	P Furlong	Chelsea	2.50	+1	+21
51201	I Wright	Arsenal	7.50	+4	+48
51202	D Bergkamp	Arsenal	7.50	+1	+46
51203	J Hartson	Arsenal	4.00	0	+19
51204	C Kiwomya	Arsenal	1.50	0	0
51206	P Dickov	Arsenal	0.75	0	+4
51301	D Hirst	Sheffield Wednesday	4.00	+1	+43
51302	M Bright	Sheffield Wednesday	2.50	0	+27
51303	G Whittingham	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+1	+31
51304	O Donaldson	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0	+3
51305	M Degryse	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+39
51306	D Kovacevic	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	0	+11
51307	R Blinker	Sheffield Wednesday	3.00	+1	+3
51401	T Cottee	West Ham United	4.50	0	+44
51403	M Boogers	West Ham United	2.00	0	-3
51404	I Dowie	West Ham United	0.75	+1	+46
51405	Dani	West Ham United	2.50	+1	+7
51501	D Ferguson	Everton	6.00	+1	+27
51502	D Amokachi	Everton	2.00	+3	+31
51503	P Rideout	Everton	3.00	0	+30
51504	G Stuart	Everton	2.00	0	+52
51601	D Dublin	Coventry City	4.50	+1	+60
51602	P Ndlovu	Coventry City	4.00	0	+25
51605	N Lamptey	Coventry City	1.00	0	+3
51606	N Whelan	Coventry City	1.50	+3	+37
51607	E Jess	Coventry City	3.00	0	+5
51701	U Rosler	Manchester City	5.50	+2	+48
51702	N Quinn	Manchester City	4.00	+1	+43
51705	G Creaney	Manchester City	2.50	0	+15
51706	R Ekelund	Manchester City	2.50	0	+1
51707	M Kavelashvili	Manchester City	1.00	+3	+3
51801	S Milosevic	Aston Villa	4.00	+3	+58
51803	D Yorke	Aston Villa	3.00	+3	+71
51804	T Johnson	Aston Villa	2.50	+1	+25
51806	J Joachim	Aston Villa	1.50	0	+6
51901	J Fjortoft	Middlesbrough	5.00	+5	+33
51902	J Hendrie	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	+8
51903	P Wilkinson	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	+5
51904	N Barmby	Middlesbrough	4.00	0	+43
52001	J McGinlay	Bolton Wanderers	3.00	0	+35
52003	M Pastelainen	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	+1	+11
52004	F De Freitas	Bolton Wanderers	0.75	0	+26
52005	N Blake	Bolton Wanderers	2.50	0	+11

INTERCHANGE KEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
40103	J Wilcox	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+1	+7
40104	T Sherwood	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+35
40105	S Ripley	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+33
40107	P Warhurst	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+3
40109	M Holmes	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+10
40110	L Bohinen	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+38
40111	W McKinlay	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+12
40112	G Fenton	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	+3
40113	G Flitcroft	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+1	+23
40201	R Giggs	Manchester United	5.50	+3	+64
40202	R Keane	Manchester United	2.50	+1	+40
40203	L Sharpe	Manchester United	3.00	0	+42
40205	N Butt	Manchester United	2.00	0	+40
40206	D Beckham	Manchester United	0.75	+1	+40
40207	S Davies	Manchester United	0.75	0	+1
40302	C Bart-Williams	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+1	+40
40303	I Woan	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+3	+54
40304	S Stone	Nottingham Forest	4.00	+3	+51
40305	D Phillips	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+21
40306	S Gemmill	Nottingham Forest	2.00	0	+34
40307	K Black	Nottingham Forest	1.00	0	+1

INTERCHANGE KEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	£m	Pts Wk	Pts Ov
60101	R Harford	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1	+35
60201	A Ferguson	Manchester United	4.00	+3	+81
60301	F Clark	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+3	+51
60401	R Evans	Liverpool	4.00	+2	+71
60501	H Wilkinson	Leeds United	3.00	+2	+38
60601	K Keegan	Newcastle United	4.00	+2	+60
60701	G Francis	Tottenham Hotspur	3.00	-1	+55
60801	R Wilkins	Queens Park Rangers	1.00	-1	+8
60901	J Kinnear	Wimbledon	1.00	+1	+31
61001	D Merrington	Southampton	1.50	+2	+25
61101	G Hoddle	Chelsea	2.50	-1	+49
61201	B Rioch	Arsenal	3.50	+3	+49
61301	D Pleat	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1	+18
61401	H Redknapp	West Ham United	1.00	+1	+36
61501	J Royle	Everton	2.00	+3	+48
61601	R Atkinson	Coventry City	1.50	+3	+18
61701	A Ball	Manchester City	1.50	-1	+21
61801	B Little	Aston Villa	2.50	+3	+62
61901	B Robson	Middlesbrough	1.00	+3	+31
62002	C Todd	Bolton Wanderers	0.50	-1	+9

Jones Boys Six and Gohils Gods settle down to fight it out as time runs out on ITF

Toil and transfers mean race goes down to the wire



David James has developed into one of the top three goalkeepers in the Premiership and is a valuable addition to any ITF team

After eight months of toil and transfers the £50,000 prize for the winner of the Interactive Team Football (ITF) is in sight. In a handful of weeks it will all be over and the reward is so close the leaders can almost touch it. But as the two top teams enter the final stages there is hardly a fiver's width between them. Jones Boys Six have their noses in front just five points ahead of Gohil's Gods 65.

Loyalty does not feature large in the ITF, most of the successful managers learned early on that reputation and talent does not necessarily earn points. As a result, both Mike Jones and Rajesh Gohil have toyed with the services of many before abandoning them to the scrap heap and starting again.

Mr Gohil has gone through strikers like a hot knife through butter. He has tried Fowler, Yeboah, Ferdinand, Shearer (three times), Scholes (many times), Dichio and Dowie before settling on Fowler and Dowie in recent weeks. And it has paid dividends as seven of Mr Gohil's 16 points last week came from the pair.

Mr Jones, too, has been ringing the changes up front but with less effect. He has dabbled with Dichio, Yorke, Rosler and Ferdinand before putting his faith in the Tottenham pair of Chris Armstrong and Teddy Sheringham. How long they will last remains to be seen. Compared to his nearest rival, Mr Jones had a duff week, gaining a meagre four points from his strikers out of a team total of seven.

Mr Jones has also kept two Liverpool players in his side. Mark Wright has been part of Jones Boys Six since the start of the season — a good and inexpensive call by Mr Jones — while Rob Jones has been a regular since November. But now that the Premiership race is virtually over for Liverpool, their fate will depend on the motivational skills of Roy Evans. With only the FA Cup to keep their interest, Mr Jones cannot afford any slacking in the ranks.

Mr Gohil, on the other hand, obviously believes in Evans as the Liverpool boss is also in charge of Gohil's Gods (Mr Jones has tried and dumped Joe Royle and Glenn Hoddle and is now trusting in Joe Kinnear). And if Fowler keeps on scoring the goals, Evans will keep earning the points and Mr Gohil will be a happy man.

But both ITF managers have decided to spend serious money on protecting what they have got. Both have spent £5 million on goalkeepers, Mr Jones going for David Seaman and Mr Gohil for Peter Schmeichel. There is little to separate the records of the two keepers — Arsenal have only conceded 29 goals in the Premiership this season and Manchester United 32 — but both managers have rather unwisely used and then dropped the cheaper and more successful option, David James of Liverpool.

If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. ITF has a transfer system that allows you to change up to two players each week. Which player you want to offload is up to you.

The ITF transfer system also allows you to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership. He would then no longer be eligible for ITF and would have to be replaced. Any overseas or Endsleigh Insurance League players who move into the Premiership during the season will become available for transfer.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the **0891 333 331** line during the times given. Calls will be charged at 39 pence per minute cheap rate, 49 pence per minute at other times. If you are calling from Ireland, you must call **004 499 020 0631** and you will be charged at 58 pence per minute at all times.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the £50,000 prize or the monthly £500 prizes.

With ITF, not only are you pitting your selectorial skills against other readers of *The Times*, you are also matching your wits against those in the know. With the support of the Professional Footballers' Association, Premiership players have entered sides of their own, and Alix Ramsay takes a look at how they have fared on the opposite page.

With the monthly prize for April still up for grabs (this week's tables do not include yesterday's Premiership action), is it time for you to delve into the transfer market?

All transfer queries regarding Interactive Team Football should be directed to 0171 757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

THE TIMES ITF INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

IN ASSOCIATION WITH Sky Sports

PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALLERS ASSOCIATION

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All FA Carling Premiership and FA Cup matches in the 1995-6 season count for points. Every goal and penalty counts

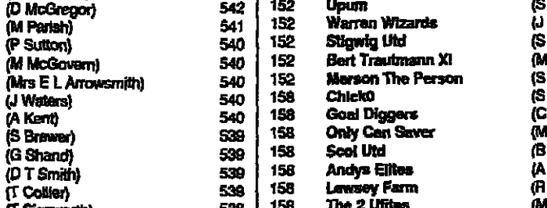
POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper		**Striker**	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	**All players**	
Full back/Central defender		Appearance†	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	**Manager**	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper		**Booked**	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Scores own goal	1pt
All players		**Manager**	
Sent off	3pts	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 333 331

'Calls cost (per minute) 39p cheap rate, 49p other times. Rep. 58p'

If calling from the Republic of Ireland, call 004 499 020 0631

You can make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector's PIN, which must be tapped in and not spoken. Follow the simple instructions and use the players' five-digit codes.

The line is open from 6am on Tuesday until 11am on Saturday; from 6pm on Saturday to 11am on Sunday and from 6pm on Sunday until 3pm on Monday. If there are midweek matches, the lines will also close at 3pm on the day of the match (or matches) and re-open the following day at 6am.

You may make up to (but no more than) two transfers a week. Each transfer is a separate transaction and you must sell a player before you can buy one.

A player transferred out of your team must be replaced by a player from the same category - for example a full back for a full back.

When purchasing a player you must ensure that the team value still falls within your £35 million budget (even if your next transfer would rectify any overspending) and does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The score of the player transferred out is taken at the time of transfer; he then ceases to score for you.

Player out ..... Player code
Club .....
Player in .....
Club .....

THE WEEK'S TRANSFERS IN ITF

IN
There are no transfers into the ITF game this week

OUT
There are no transfers out of the ITF game this week

THE LEADING 250 SELECTORS IN INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	Jones Boys Six	(M L Jones)	636
2	Gohils Gods 65	(R Gohil)	631
3	Laytons Lions	(R Layton)	598
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131	Triple Peelers	(J B Portwood)	530
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131	Dour Rangers	(I Clayton)	530
131	Bijou	(M Minasian)	530
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With an established reputation as a high profile commercial practice, this City firm acts for a wide range of UK and international commercial clients including major media and telecommunications companies. It has a strong profile in the copyright, regulatory, broadcasting, film, entertainment, IT and communications industries and seeks a senior telecoms lawyer in the area to join its thriving team. Ref: T19791

MARINE LITIGATION *To £70,000*
Leading international shipping practice with a reputation for excellence seeks senior marine litigator with between 4 and 7 years' pqe gained with a niche shipping practice or major P&I Club. Expertise should comprise both wet and dry work but if only have one of these specialisms, will train up on the other. Excellent opportunity. Ref: T18661

2-5 YEAR CORPORATE *To £50,000*
Medium-sized City firm with an excellent working environment and good prospects for the right individuals seeks excellent 2-5 year qualified corporate lawyers to undertake a mix of private and public company work, venture capital, bids, floats and secondary equity raisings. A very broad mix of work and strong partnership prospects. Ref: T18596

SENIOR CONSTRUCTION *To £Partnership*
Medium-sized City practice seeks construction lawyer with at least 7 years' pqe. A view to partnership in about a year to 18 months. A great deal of existing work, including two major disputes for a well-known client. Need gravitas and leadership skills to take this role forward. Excellent opportunity and pivotal role within the department. Ref: T21570

CORPORATE FINANCE – In-House *£Excellent*
Top City trained corporate finance lawyer with between 6 months' and 2 years' pqe sought by prestigious merchant bank. Experience of Blue and Yellow Book work preferable. This is an ideal opportunity for a first in-house role which still stand the successful candidate in good stead for long-term career prospects. Ref: T7381

EC COMPETITION *Brussels £Exceptional*
Major City firm with one of the most respected EC/Competition teams in Europe seeks first class lawyer with at least 4 years' relevant pqe to play a major function in its Brussels office. Work of the highest quality involving regular contact with all major European institutions. Exceptional opportunity. Ref: T27142

BANKING *To £31,000*
Excellent opportunity for a junior banking lawyer to join this major City firm and to work with recognised experts in the field. With between 0-1 years' relevant pqe you must have gained hands-on banking experience during articles and, if now qualified, since qualification. Ref: T26890

EMPLOYMENT *To £50,000*
Highly progressive and successful US firm with a major presence in London seeks an additional employment specialist to undertake a broad contentious/non-contentious workload. With between 1-4 years' relevant experience what matters is your obvious commitment and interest in the subject as well as your client getting/retaining ability. Ref: T27200

BANKING – In-House *To £60,000*
One of the largest banks in the world seeks technically able banking lawyers with between 2 and 5 years' pqe to join London office. The work will be primarily syndicated loans/project finance work with a fair degree of bilateral loans, property finance, aircraft finance, M&A's and foreign exchange transactions. Tremendous potential for job enlargement. Ref: T27336

CAPITAL MARKETS *To £80,000*
Outstanding opportunity to join the London office of one of the leading US commercial practices in the City. With between 3-5 years' pqe in banking law from a leading City firm, with a particular focus on capital markets and regulatory work, you will be joining a department in which ambition and drive are recognised and rewarded. Ref: T16595

CORPORATE TAX *To £38,000*
Large, prestigious City practice with reputation in the taxation area seeks junior solicitor with 1-3 years' pqe to join its dynamic team. With specific corporate tax experience, gained either in articles or post-qualification, at a respected firm, this is an opportunity to secure some of the most challenging corporate tax work in London. Ref: T14136

EQUITY COMPLIANCE – In-House *To £Generous*
Top international investment house seeks UK/US lawyer with strong academic credentials and a minimum of 5-6 years' plus experience in European capital markets. Strong technical expertise in equity cash and derivatives markets, both domestic and international, as well as familiarity with UK compliance issues essential. Ref: T24589

PROPERTY *To £60,000*
Top 5 commercial property practice in City currently handling an exciting array of instructions seeks further top quality assistants between 1 and 6 years qualified. High profile and tremendously varied workload. Must have strong technical skills with the commercial acumen to be a future partner. Ref: T15493

PENSIONS *To £50,000*
One of the City's leading practices seeks one or more pensions lawyers with between 1 and 4 years' pqe to join its busy pensions department. With specific pensions experience gained at a respected firm, or in-house, you will already have experience of employee benefits. Great amount of independence with solid support. Ref: T21913

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Christopher Sweeney, Seamus Hoar or June Mesrié (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-960 7527 or 0171-403 5727 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail christopher@qdrec.demon.co.uk

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY *£PREMIUM*
Niche City based IP firm has attracted significant client base of household name multi-nationals through its strong referral network. Dynamic assistant at the 2-3 year level is sought with relevant, hands on experience of contentious and non-contentious domestic and international IP work including copyright, trade marks, passing off, design rights and passing off. Successful candidate must be able to assume early responsibility. Highly competitive salary and benefits package. (Ref.5799).

CITY BANKING *£30-75,000*
Blue chip City firm is devoting substantial resources to expanding its finance practice and is winning work from much larger City competitors. Recent work includes high profile LBOs, complex project financings, infrastructure and power projects. Assistants of partnership calibre are sought at all levels. Significant salary packages will be offered. (Ref.2921).

PROPERTY *TO £45,000*
Dynamic Property Department at highly regarded City firm offers excellent career opportunities to talented 1-4 year qualified lawyers with proven technical and well developed client handling skills. Caseload is a challenging mix of high profile development, investment and retail work and some corporate support. Department continues to be one of the most well resourced in the City. (Ref.6384)

CONSTRUCTION *TO £41,000*
Highly regarded Construction Department at major London practice seeks talented litigator 2-3 years qualified. Specialist team has a significant employer and contractor client base which continues to produce a varied, challenging caseload, often breaking new ground in this fast moving industry sector. Vacancy will suit an ambitious, self-motivated litigator seeking fast track to partnership. (Ref.6660)

GENERAL BANKING *£HIGH CITY*
Leading global commercial bank seeks a 3-4 year qualified banking lawyer to join its legal team, to take individual responsibility for mainstream banking, project and trade finance and other types of lending. Well supported function with opportunity for the lawyer to have commercial involvement with significant exposure to a number of business areas. Friendly and supportive environment. (Ref.6892).

EMPLOYMENT *TO £45,000*
Progressive Central London firm is putting together a dedicated employment team and seeks an assistant at the 3-4 year level to play a key fee-earning and practice development role. Firm is renowned for its creative approach to marketing and the successful candidate must be able to demonstrate a like-minded attitude and have experience of, or a desire to specialise almost exclusively in, contentious employment work. First class prospects. (Ref.0064).

UNUSUAL CO'CO *£PREMIUM*
Excellent opportunity for able and highly motivated corporate/commercial lawyer with 2-4 years' post qualification experience to join London office of highly regarded international firm. Some experience of, or a keen interest in, IT is desirable. Prerequisites are flexibility, commitment and proven technical ability. Exciting opportunity to thrive in atypical law firm environment. (Ref.6729).

CORPORATE TAX *TO £45,000*
15-30 partner London firm with excellent reputation in several industry sectors seeks corporate tax lead assistant. Will play front-line role in a range of M & A and other corporate/commercial work and also support employment, IP and telecoms lawyers. Limited amount of private clients tax work. Would suit a lawyer becoming over specialised as a larger firm seeking a broader role and significant client contact. (Ref.6607)

LEADING EDGE TELECOMS *£CITY*
Highly regarded Telecoms Group at 10-25 partner City firm has key vacancy for an assistant at around the 4 year level. Opportunity to join a refreshingly informal group involved in providing ground breaking solutions from both commercial and regulatory standpoints. The successful candidate will need an excellent academic background, relevant experience in this sector and a desire to play a front-line role in the further expansion of this key practice area. (Ref.3008)

CO'CO - GLOS *TO £40,000*
Opportunity for a 2-3 year qualified company/commercial solicitor to join prestigious financial group as the number two in an expanding legal team. Work will be broad and will entail giving commercial advice to a variety of business areas with regular involvement in corporate transactions. Strong academic background essential as is the desire to be involved in commercial as well as legal issues. (Ref.0002).

For further information regarding in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Hicks on 0171-377 0510 (0171-735 5548 evenings/weekends). For private practice vacancies please contact Sally Horrox, Miranda Smyth or Yasmin Phillips on 0171-377 0510 (0181-995 3396 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-247 5174. E-mail sally@zmb.co.uk

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One of the City's foremost insolvency units still hasn't experienced the end of the recession! Business is booming at this c80 partner firm, hence the need for a senior insolvency solicitor to deal with a full range of issues acting for the Big 6 Accountancy firms. Excellent prospects.

CORPORATE *2-4 years*
Working on a 'conveyor belt' in a large City firm? Seeking additional responsibility and a lifestyle! If so, you as a high flying solicitor must consider this c45 partner firm, which handles the whole gamut of corporate work for international clients. An outstanding opportunity.

PROPERTY LIT *NQ – 2 years*
A new position awaits a specialist litigator in the high profile team of this leading City firm. Major UK and International clients will offer a variety and quality of work unlikely to be matched elsewhere. Will suit an ambitious high calibre assistant.

CONSTRUCTION *3-5 years*
Acting on behalf of major developers and retailers, this c.30 partner firm requires a construction specialist to handle predominantly non-contentious work. You will be a good technician with clear ideas regarding marketing construction expertise to existing/potential clients.

HEAD of PROPERTY *£ (US) Equity*
Outstanding opportunity awaits 'heavyweight' lawyer (aged 33 years plus) in expanding London office of leading US law firm. Spectacular growth of both domestic and international corporate client base will provide a superb platform to an ambitious practice developer.

CONSTRUCTION *Partner*
Frustrated at being no.2? Then the prospect of heading a smaller group in a substantial City firm will appeal. Live-wire practice developer with a part following is sought for this key role.

GERMAN SPEAKER *3 years +*
Leading UK financial services organisation seeks ambitious corporate solicitor/Rechtsanwalt, based here or in Germany, to establish its first European office. Fully supported by the international legal team this position offers outstanding prospects.

TELECOMS *3-4 years*
This complex and highly demanding practice area is one that this small successful City firm has adopted as one of its key specialisms. A telecoms solicitor with entrepreneurial flair is sought to act for U.K. and international clients.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY *2-3 years*
The property department of this well established c.40 partner central London law firm, acts for major plc's, institutions and private property companies on a full range of property issues and now seeks a bright, self-starter to join their key department.

To discuss any of the above appointments in detail, please contact Simon Janion or Simon Eagan on 0171 404 6669 (evenings/weekends: 01252 715302) or write to us, in complete confidence, at 6 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DJ (fax 0171 404 0469).

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Commercial Property - c£30,000 City/West
Two new positions with name firms both with thriving property practices for Solicitors from 1-4PQE to handle a range of development, landlord and tenant and secured lending work.

Employment - c£35,000 Berks
Solicitor with c3PQE is sought by leading firm to handle a mainly contentious caseload dealing with work arising from the firm's busy corporate team.

In-House Banking - to £45,000 City
Major bank seeks Lawyer with 3-4PQE to handle a broad range of work including consumer credit, product development and general retail banking matters.

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Major energy company seeks bright, commercially minded Lawyer with c2PQE to deal with a range of commercial work within a well established team. Energy experience not required.

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Intellectual Property - c£30,000 Oxon
Leading firm seeks Solicitor 1-3PQE to carry out a broad range of commercial work with a high IP content, dealing with clients active in the publishing, IT, science and technology and retail sectors.

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Leading international firm has new position for top notch construction Lawyer with c4PQE to handle both contentious and non-contentious matters.

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For further details of these seminars (both of which attract Law Society Continuing Education points), and of the new quarterly publication ART ANTIQUITY AND LAW please contact: The Director, Institute of Art and Law, 47 Francis Street, Leicester, LE2 2BE;

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Bar Pro Bono Unit

ADMINISTRATOR

A Bar Pro Bono Unit, handling mainly referral work which will be passed to senior barristers on a register, is to be launched in May 1996.

The above position, based at the unit's three offices in Gray's Inn, will initially be part-time, for 3 days a week, or for 5 mornings. Remuneration will be discussed at interview, but applicants may indicate expected salary range. The position will be reviewed after 6 months.

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Written applications, to include CV and two referees, should be sent by 25th April 1996 to Peter Goldsmith QC, Bar Pro Bono Project, 3 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4DB. Please mark the envelope '*Administrator Vacancy*'.

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LAW

● NEXT WEEK: THE CHILDREN WHO KILL

Gary Slapper on the problems of a legal system to prevent nuisance and noise



This gathering is well-behaved; but an out-of-control party can lead to a visit from a local authority noise patrol, right



Let's try to keep the peace

When the loud barking of a neighbour's puppy got the better of Nicholas Farnell, he hit the owner on the head with a crowbar and killed him. Farnell has just been given a life sentence for murder. In the past year alone there have been three killings, one suicide, several arson attacks and thousands of fights after disputes between neighbours about noise.

Over the past four years 18 people have been killed in such disputes. Last September, for example, Paul Thurston was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court after he threw a firebomb into a noisy party, causing the death of a young mother. Clearly, the law of nuisance, which seeks to balance the interests of citizens with conflicting desires, is failing when criminal law is so often left to pick up the pieces.

The scale of the problem is enormous. Nationally, councils now receive 300 complaints a day about unacceptable levels of noise from neighbours. In 1967 there were 976 official complaints about neighbour noise and last year there were more than 112,000.

A recent poll found that one person in ten considered their home life to be ruined by noise. A survey by the Government's Building Research Establishment found that more than half the homes in England and Wales suffered daytime levels above the 45 decibels recommended by the World Health Organisation. After sunset, two thirds were exposed to noise above the recommended 35-decibel limit. The research discovered emotions ran so high that people spoke of hatred, revenge and murder when asked what they felt about those responsible.

The basic principle of English law is that an actionable nuisance at common law occurs where there is an unreasonable interference with someone's use of their land. It occurs if someone permits an excessive or abnormal noise which materially affects the ordinary health and comfort of ordinary people according to the plain and sober notions of right-minded people.

There is, a judge said in 1862, "a rule of give and take, live and let live". In assessing this question, the courts will take into account the character of the area; so different standards apply for quiet residential areas, inner cities and industrial areas.

It is no defence for the defendant to argue that he or she has done everything he can to lessen the disturbance (such as disciplining dogs) if the noise is still something that the neighbours should not reasonably have to tolerate. Neither can the defence argue that the complainant "came to the nuisance" because they moved residence close to a previously existing disturbance.

There is no rule about the necessary duration of a nuisance, but the longer it continues, the more likely it will be classified as a nuisance. Damages are an available remedy, as is an injunction. But before granting the latter remedy, a judge must be persuaded that the nuisance is substantial, continuing and likely to continue unless the injunction is granted.

The law of nuisance really protects not only the right to enjoy property, but also, through such a right, the protection of the value of property. Earlier this year Violet Lamb, a widow of 79 who sold her house without telling the purchasers that she had complained about a noisy neighbour, had to pay £15,000 damages, representing the amount by which the house was devalued by having a neighbour who carried out noisy car repairs in his drive.

Now both Harry Greenway, MP — in a Private Member's Bill which has cross-party support — and the Labour Party have advanced plans to tackle the problem with new legal measures.

Last year, in several cities, the Government piloted a scheme under which noisy neighbours faced instant £40 fines if they refused to heed warnings to turn down the volume from stereos or domestic machinery operating above 35 decibels between 11pm and 7am. Persistent offenders faced court fines of up to £1,000. The Department of the Environment points out that 35 decibels is equivalent to the amount of noise generated by a television set or radio in a room with closed windows on a busy street.

But the system operated on the basis that a complainant had to ring the council, whose officers visited the supposedly offending premises and, where necessary, served a warning. Fines could be imposed if the warnings were ignored. Officers also had the power to confiscate music systems. This system is now largely incorporated in the Noise Bill, sponsored by Mr Greenway and which has just passed committee stage. The proposed on-the-spot fine has been raised to £100.

Labour has proposed legislation enabling antisocial neighbours to be jailed for up to seven years. In a paper last year, Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, argued that the system was unable to deal with low-level but chronic crime committed over several months. According to Mr Straw, the problem is that "the criminal justice system deals only in snapshots and not as it were with a continuous film".

Mr Straw proposes a new Community Safety Order — a type of injunction to restrain criminal antisocial behaviour by individuals or a group. This could be prompted by antagonistic behaviour, including insults, threats of intimidation, minor assaults, noise, racial harassment or the use of aggressive dogs. Breaching the order, which could include curfews or exclusion from a particular area, would be punishable by imprisonment.

The new order would be obtained in a magistrates' or County Court by a senior police officer or chief executive of a local council. To avoid witness intimidation, evidence could be presented without identifying the complainant.

How far any new legal scheme can effectively keep the peace between dog lovers and haters is open to debate. In a 1990 noise-nuisance survey by Bupa, the health insurance company, barking dogs came top of a league of 48 other unpleasant sounds, beating pneumatic drills and heavy traffic. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, neighbours can bring their own prosecution against dog owners in the magistrates' courts. Criminal legal aid is largely defendant-supportive, so most complainants do not get funding and are often unable to finance a case with a possible £1,000 bill.

There are technological ways of trying to deal with nuisance. More than 150 local authorities have now bought a machine that records sound levels alongside the date and time. But it is often difficult to prove sustained noisiness if the suspect becomes aware of the testing. In America and Japan, sound-sensitive electric collars are commonly used to give dogs a short sharp shock each time they bark, but such techniques are manifestly cruel and unnatural.

● *Dr Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.*

Divine intervention in the courtroom

The *American Bar Association Journal* recently reported on the problem of "bench stress", or "black robe fever", which causes judges to behave in an irritable and offensive manner to those who appear in their courts. Among recent examples of judicial misbehaviour, even more reprehensible than the Philadelphia judge who threw a glass of water at a lawyer making unpersuasive submissions, was the judge in Louisiana who told an argumentative witness that in his court he was "God".

An adequate research study has yet to be conducted on the relationship between the judiciary and the Almighty. But a recent judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has demonstrated that judges make errors of law even when they believe that their decisions have been blessed with divine inspiration, with the judge claiming to have received more assistance from above than from counsel in the case.

In February, the Privy Council allowed an appeal in *Logan v The Queen*, a criminal case from Belize. The Privy Council held that it had jurisdiction to hear the appeal, rejecting the contrary view as expressed by the Chief Justice of Belize, Sir George Brown, in the *Lauriano* case, in September 1995. Immediately before giving his decision in *Lauriano*, the Chief Justice had explained in court that "I think the judgment itself is one which is not directly from me in person, but through me". He commented that "the answer to the case came to me" on a Sunday night. It was a "divine inspiration" which "goes to the glory of God".



COUNSEL

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The Chief Justice of Belize is not the first judge to have claimed assistance from a source not available on the Internet when considering difficult points of law. During the *Gay News* blasphemy trial at the Old Bailey in 1977, Judge Alan King-Hamilton was (according to his autobiography) "half-conscious of being guided by some superhuman inspiration" throughout the preparation and delivery of his summing-up to the jury.

Indeed, whether or not the judge enjoys spiritual assistance from a supernatural *amicus curiae* (friend of the court), it may help the conduct of judicial business if litigants are willing so to believe. In his study of the British Empire, *Pax Britannica*, James Morris recorded that the elders of an Indian hill tribe involved in a legal dispute sacrificed an animal "to propitiate a distant but omnipotent deity". They explained that "we know nothing of him but that he is a good god, and that his name is the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council".

Today most judges have to make do with the limited help provided by the Judicial Studies Board. In biblical times, judges knew that they had divine assistance in performing their duties. Moses told the judges deciding disputes between the Children of Israel that they should "not be afraid of the face of any man; for the judgment is God's". Indeed, Moses took to God Himself the really hard cases, such as the claim brought by the daughters of Zelophehad, who contended that their sex should not prevent them from inheriting their father's property. (God gave judgment in their favour.) By his judgment deciding which of two women was the mother of a child, Solomon demonstrated that "the wisdom of God was in him, to do justice".

Judge Learned Hand described how Justice Cardozo (a judge of the United States Supreme Court in 1932-38) arrived at his judgments only after suffering the anguish of indecision in which "like Jacob, he had to wrestle with the angel all through the night". But Cardozo never claimed that the opinions he handed down after such a struggle were blessed with the authority of a court more supreme than that which sat in Washington DC. In a 1953 opinion, Justice Jackson of the United States Supreme Court acknowledged that "we are not final because we are infallible, but we are infallible only because we are final".

There are undoubtedly occasions on which judges deciding temporal disputes would greatly benefit from celestial guidance. In a United States District Court in 1971, the plaintiff brought proceedings against Satan for causing him misfortune and misery, thereby violating his constitutional rights. The judge dismissed the case because "the complaint contains no allegation of residence by the defendant in this district" and the plaintiff "has failed to include with his complaint the required form of instructions for the United States Marshal for directions as to service of process".

Some judges who have to decide difficult questions of law find it comforting to pray to their God that they may perform their duties wisely and well. Judicial humility is a virtue, whatever form it takes. But for judges to assume, and then assert, that the judgments they hand down come blessed with divine authority confirms the accuracy of Justice Jackson's observation in a 1952 judgment in the United States Supreme Court that judges, other than God himself, "sometimes exhibit vanity, irascibility, narrowness, arrogance, and other weaknesses to which human flesh is heir".

● *The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.*

Firms start ad battle

SOLICITORS are going into battle to find accident victims. They are waging an advertising war in the pages of a London local newspaper over personal injuries work.

The front page of a recent *Camden New Journal* displayed advertisements from four solicitors' firms, each competing for the attention of readers who may have been injured in some way.

"Have you been injured in a road traffic accident, at work, tripped or slipped, or been a victim of medical negligence?" asks Lewis Nedas & Co, while Hodge Jones & Allen says: "If you have been injured in a road traffic accident, an accident at work, tripping on the pavement or through medical negligence you may be entitled to compensation."

Osbornes asks: "Do you have a claim for personal injury?" and the Luper Partnership is equally direct in drumming up work. "Have you been injured?" it says.

Organ gift

PETER Carter-Ruck, *éminence grise* of the libel world, has had his portrait painted by Bryan Organ, the portraitist. The painting, commissioned for £12,500, was a gift from his partners, who had the idea as part of their senior partner's 80th birthday celebrations last year.



Carter-Ruck and portrait

Mr Carter-Ruck is said to be "very pleased" with the painting, which is now hanging in the firm's boardroom.

Anne-Marie Pagett, a partner with the firm until she recently moved from London, says: "Peter chose the artist himself. It is a very good likeness. It really captures his energy. He loves it."

Bar balance

AN INTRICATE balancing act is being performed by the Bar Council as it embarks on a consultation exercise to find out how it can improve its accountability to the profession.

A questionnaire has gone out to barristers with this month's *Bar News*. Its importance will not be lost to anyone watching recent goings-on at the Law Society.

David Penry-Davey, QC, the Bar Council chairman, says: "For a busy profession, there is not much daylight between 'they never tell us anything' and 'they keep showering us with bumph'.

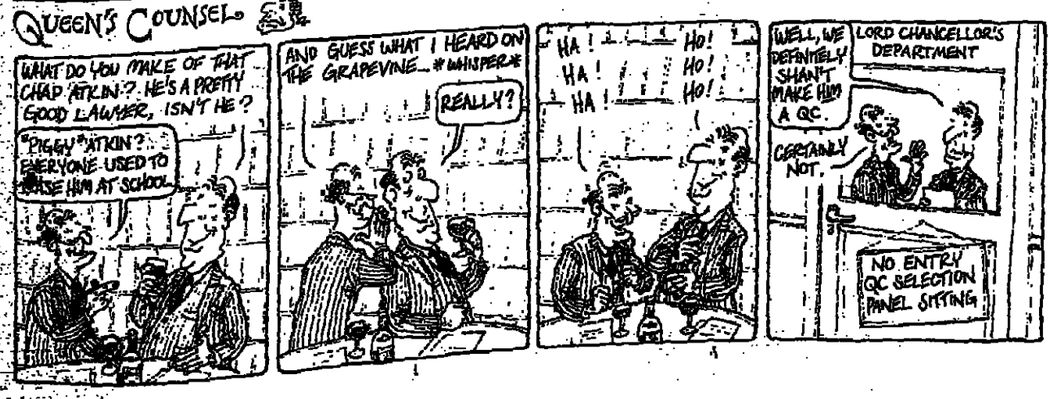
"Equally, on accountability, there is a fine balance to be achieved between 'why can't they just get on with it?' and 'this does not have the backing of the Bar'."

Seeing double

MANCHESTER United is not the only team with high hopes of achieving the league and cup double this year.

The Grays Inn XI are also hot on the trail of that cherished goal. They have already come top in the London Legal League first division. Next Monday they play the final of the cup competition. If they win, it will be the first time a team has won the double since 1982. The match is at the Douglas Eyre sports centre in Coppermill Lane, Walthamstow, and kick-off is at 7pm.

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STARTING TODAY: YOUR CHANCE TO SAVE UP TO £27 AT A CHOICE OF TWO RPO CONCERTS AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL



The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra being conducted by Daniele Gatti and inset (left) conductor Orwain Arwel Hughes and (right)cellist Lynn Harrell

Take a friend to an RPO concert — FREE

Today *The Times*, in association with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, offers you the opportunity to take a friend FREE to one of two concerts in the orchestra's inaugural series at the Royal Albert Hall. You can choose to attend a concert on Sunday, May 12 or Tuesday, May 21.

Tickets range in price from £10 to £27, and for any ticket you buy you will be given a second complimentary ticket of equal value valid for the same concert .

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The two concerts feature some of the classics of the repertoire. At the Sunday concert on May 12, conducted by Owain Arwel Hughes, you will be able to hear Holst's *The Planets* with a lady's chorus from the Royal Choral Society and Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* which will feature baritone Thomas Allen. Sunday's concert. Owain Arwel Hughes has conducted all the UK symphony orchestras, and their respective choirs, and is creator and musical director of The World Choir.

Baritone Thomas Allen has performed everywhere, including La Scala, Milan, the Paris Opera house and the Metropolitan, New York. Mr Allen came to the rescue of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, two years ago when, hours after he landed back in London after singing *The Marriage of Figaro* in Los Angeles, he received a desperate phone call asking him to step in because their singer had lost his voice. Fortunately it was the same role he had been singing in America.

The concert on Tuesday May 21 will be conducted by the Russian Yuri Temirkanov and features Dvorak's *Cello Concerto* and Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

Yuri Temirkanov studied violin at the Leningrad Conservatoire. He made his debut with the RPO in 1977 and succeeded André Previn as principal conductor three years ago.

The cello soloist is New Yorker Lynn Harrell who is one of the most sought after performers in the world. He began studying the cello at nine and at 12 made his debut with the Dallas Symphony.

The RPO, founded by Sir Thomas Beecham in 1946, is making its London home at the Royal Albert Hall.

Daniele Gatti, the young Italian maestro and music director designate, will take over the musical direction of the orchestra in September.

He follows a line of distinguished music directors including Antal Dorati, Walter Weller, André Previn and Vladimir Ashkenazy.

There are nine inaugural concerts in all and the two to which you can take a friend free of charge are likely to be very popular so early booking is advisable.

HOW TO APPLY

Tick the appropriate box(es) to indicate the price of ticket(s) you wish to purchase. Make cheques payable to: Royal Albert Hall and send with your completed coupon, to: The Ticket Shop, Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AP to arrive no later than Wednesday, May 8, 1996.Only one free ticket per paid for ticket will be issued.



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Today we feature the Baroque and Classical CD track listing. Tomorrow and Thursday we will publish the track listings of *The Romantics* and *Nationalism*. Simply complete the coupon below and send a cheque or postal order for £1.98 per CD, payable to CD Ltd, to cover the cost of postage and handling. You can also use the credit card section. Send your order and remittance to: The Times Classical Collection, Newcastle upon Tyne X, NE85 10FE. The offer closes on May 8, 1996 and is subject to availability. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

The Baroque and Classical track listing

1. VIVALDI *The Four Seasons, 1, La Primavera* (5.21)
2. PACHELBEL *Canon* (5.34)
3. BACH *Brandenburg Concerto No.3 Allegro* (5.47)
4. HAYDN *Symphony No 103 Drum Roll, 1st movt. adagio allegro con spirito* (10.00)
5. MOZART *Piano Concerto No. 21 in C Major* (7.05)
6. BEETHOVEN *Symphony No 3 in E flat major Eroica 1st movt. allegro con brio* (14.45)
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BRIEFINGS

Eight out of ten small businesses have never considered exporting, according to a report from Barclays Bank. Companies fail to explore new markets because they think their product is not suitable, or that it is too complicated to move into exporting. *Realising your export potential*, a Barclays guide to exporting, is available from local branches or by calling Peter Oatley on 01203 534455.

☐ Practical advice for small and medium-sized businesses on doing business in America will be offered in a series of one-day seminars run by Grant Thornton. The seminars will be held in London, Windsor, Leicester, Warrington, Leeds and Glasgow between April 30 and May 9. The cost is £40 per person. Call 0171 728 2757.

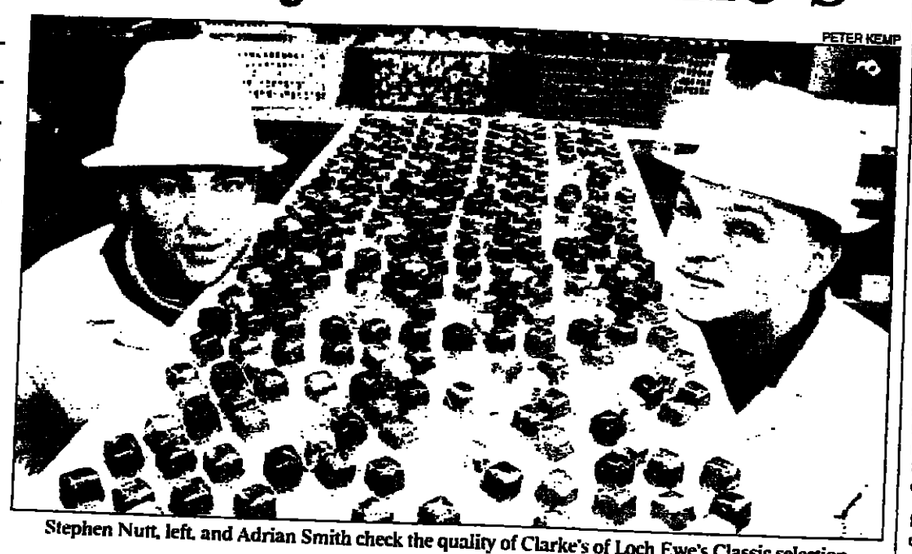
☐ A service called Matchmaker to help small businesses to find a suitable public relations consultancy has been started by the Institute of Public Relations. Participating companies on the institute's list cover 91 industry sectors. Call 0171 253 5151.

☐ A free guide to franchising has been produced by Midland Bank. It advises on how to calculate the costs of setting up a franchise, how to choose the most suitable option, and what to look for before signing a contract. Call 0800 180 180.

☐ Forthcoming franchise exhibitions include Edinburgh (April 26-27) and Manchester (June 28-29). Call the British Franchise Association on 0171 727 8400.

Chocs away at Clarke's

Veronica Heath on a high-quality chocolate maker who is planning to rival the Belgians



PETER KEMP

Stephen Nutt, left, and Adrian Smith check the quality of Clarke's of Loch Ewe's Classic selection

The First World War had just ended when a small confectionery business was launched on a kitchen table overlooking Loch Ewe in Wester Ross.

Clemence Clarke was able to provide a living for herself and her fiancé, invalided out of the Forces, with her expertise in making luxury chocolates. Today the business, known as Clarke's of Loch Ewe, has a turnover of £200,000.

Stephen Nutt, the business's marketing manager, said: "Clemence's spirit still watches over us. Her original recipes form the basis of our range."

In 1988, the business relocated from the west coast of Scotland to a converted primary school in Coldstream, Berwickshire. The owners were attracted by a package of assistance from the Scottish Borders Enterprise.

The business employs 16 full and part-time workers, all of whom are locals. "The majority walk here," said Adrian Smith who, in partnership with Mr Nutt, is a company director. Mr Smith is a godson of the last of the Clarkes who retired in 1991. Mr Nutt was invited to join that year. He said: "Our real breakthrough came when we landed a marketing scholarship from the Kellogg Institute in America in 1994. There were only five scholarships awarded. We were easily the smallest. It was basically a programme designed to help individuals to market their wares — tremendously helpful."

Clarke's is now dealing with inquiries from the United States and Japan. Mail order selections can be gift-wrapped in personalised boxes.

Mr Nutt said: "The manufacturing process is highly skilled and we use only the finest ingredients. All the chocolates are hand-made and wrapped in foil, tissue and distinctive boxes. We aim to be up in the same league as the very best of the Belgian chocolate houses."

Clarke's produces around 70,000 boxes annually, with the retail price of a 250g box at £8-£10. Christmas is the busiest time of the year for Clarke's, but business over Easter is growing rapidly after a first move into the Easter egg market in 1995. This year its luxury truffle eggs proved to be very popular.

Mr Nutt said: "We don't plan to be a big chocolate house, but there are plans for expansion and further improvement." He admitted that he had already turned down business that was not regarded as being in the best interest of the firm in terms of product quality or volume.

He says: "We are looking towards a £250,000 investment into new premises in Coldstream, doubling our factory space and creating some new jobs, and an annual turnover of £1 million by the end of the century."

Clarke's is on 01890 883153.

Employers face some taxing problems

By Robert Bruce

FILE tax forms on time and correctly or pay the penalty. That is the message being hammered home to employers by the Inland Revenue.

Particularly taxing for employers are the forms dealing with employees and expenses. While advice on information on the new demands of self-assessment from 1996-97 abound, employers may find there is rather less helpful guidance on how to deal with this year's forms.

Simon Robinson, a partner at Shipleys, the accountancy firm, said: "It has become tougher for small employers. The Inland Revenue became more draconian over this in an effort to make people get down to doing the work."

For example, an error on a P11D form, which details the expenses of directors and other highly paid employees, can give rise to a £3,000 penalty, and if the error is repeated on other forms the penalty can be £3,000 for each.

National Insurance Contributions (NICs), are increasingly a minefield for the unwary. Employers, for example, must pay NICs on amounts paid to meet employees' personal liabilities, like the cost of using a home telephone for some business purposes.

Reportable benefits are diverse and may not be obvious. A company van may be taken home in the evening by an employee and brought back in the morning. Even if those journeys are the only private use of the van these will count as a benefit. The same pitfalls occur over newspapers, and companies should watch out where they are reimbursing employees for the cost of trade periodicals or newspapers.

Other areas likely to cause problems this year include company cars, the Revenue's new overnight allowance for business expenses and a whole range of benefits in kind.

DATES TO MEET

1996 year-end checklist for employers

Deadline	Action required
April 19	Month 12 PAYE and NIC payments
May 19	Submit P35, P14 and P38 forms
June 6	Submit P11D, P11D(b) and P9D forms
June 19	Class 1A NIC payments

Source: Simpkins Chartered Accountants



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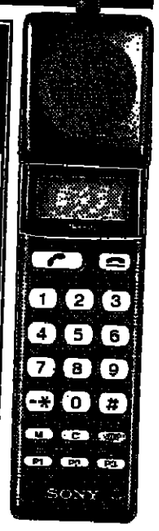
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17,767.80	HSBC Hld†	1001	+ 7	4.0	11.6
321.80	Irish Permt	391		3.3	
50.90	King Shaxson	155	+ 3	7.3	12.0
23.90	Leopold J	450		5.2	15.5
16,081.30	Lloyds TSB†	316	+ 8	3.7	17.0
8,385.30	Nat Aust Bk	577	+ 30	7.4	7.5
11,453.60	Nat Westf†	646	+ 17	4.9	9.0
28.60	Roi Bnk Scot	58	- ½		2.2
3,995.50	Rtl Bk Scot	496	+ 4	4.7	11.2
1,812.00	Schroders†	1,200		1.7	16.8
429.70	Schroders NV†	963	+ 66	2.1	13.5
201.40	Singer & Fried	102	- 7½	5.0	8.0
6,699.80	Stand Chartd†	625	+ 21	2.2	13.7
27.50	Ulsterf	103		3.6	
16,682.60	Wells Fargo	5121½	+ 209½	1.8	
5,917.80	Westpac	2115½	+ 46	4.8	
32.80	Wintrust	300	- 5	4.8	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

4.56	Devlin Sir Hld	38			8.3
162.70	Good Hldgs	224	- 5		10.7
6,792.50	Bass	771	- 24	3.7	17.6
11.30	Bk for the Bst	47		4.3	17.8
35.20	Battered Bns	102	- 1	4.0	16.5
185.60	City Centre Rest	360	- 10	3.0	
1,699.90	Compass Gp	540	+ 34	1.7	23.8
57.80	Edwdge P Al^	238	- 1	2.3	23.0
98.00	Fulls Sth Afr	478	- 3	2.3	18.9
1,714.00	Greenalls Grp	981		2.1	15.9
220.10	Greene King	662	- 6	2.8	16.6
30.80	Grosvenor Inns	131		3.8	14.6
38.70	Groupe Chez Gre	207		1.5	20.9
64.40	Hardy Haron	332		3.9	12.0
4.87	Hazelhse	210	- 20	3.6	
104.60	Hdl J	207	- 26	2.0	16.1
204.90	Mansfield	317	- ½	3.1	15.9
308.40	Mason Thmp	343	- ½	2.7	16.2
181.40	Morland	662		2.2	19.5
34.60	My Kinrss Town	138	- 6	2.2	17.5
6.52	Pastmrush†	54½		5.9	9.8
93.00	Pelican Gp	176		7.6	21.2
192.60	PizzaExpress	544	+ 29	0.6	35.6
28.90	Ransdens (R)	126	- 13	3.9	34.5
166.10	Regent Inns†	1035	+ 5	1.0	12.2
3,946.10	Scot & Newc	647	+ 17	3.6	17.4
81.90	Tom Cobleigh	305½	- 7½	4.1	16.9
388.10	Vaux Group	376	+ 4	4.6	14.3
395.60	Wetherspoon JD†	984	+ 66	1.1	33.6
3,390.70	Whitbread	702	+ 30	3.1	16.2
529.20	Wolverhmpn O	855	- 15	4.3	15.9
159.20	Yates Bros	405	+ 20	1.0	26.5
15.30	Young A	5.29		3.6	21.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

5.76	AAF Inds	73			
63.90	Abbey	1125		4.0	10.7
83.60	Allen	1243	- 6	3.0	10.9
297.00	Amec	1375	- 7	1.1	21.5
49.50	Anderson Strthc	278	- 1	1.8	
347.80	Ashtead^	1153	- 6	1.8	15.5
12.50	Avenside	31		4.8	
1.83	Bailey (Fred) Con	5			5.9
28.10	Bairstow	75	- 1		
12.00	Phillips & Drew	205	- 1		26.0
2,180.20	Pilkington	208	- 1	3.0	16.5
282.20	Polypipe	178	- 3	1.9	16.5
2,487.40	RMC Gp	1093	+ 26	2.7	13.7
2,060.40	Redland	397	- 13	5.4	18.0
19.30	Ronacr	106	- 4	5.5	11.9
71.00	Rotaprint	147		3.4	17.6
775.10	Rugby Group†	121	+ 8	3.7	26.8
29.60	Russell (A)	132	+ 8	2.7	
186.40	SIG¶	291	+ 7	3.6	
4.51	SWP	5			
36.00	Sharpe & Fisher	126	- 2	3.9	
85.10	Spring Ram	184	- 1½		
111.00	Streetlare Hldgs	179	+ 4	5.4	
1,166.60	Tarmac	326	+ 13	5.6	
15.40	Tilbur	132		4.2	12.9
432.10	Travis Perkins	424	+ 26	2.8	17.8
3.37	Tudor	30		3.7	17.8
0.78	Warehouse^	31			
2,422.10	Wimpey	438	- 2	2.9	15.0

BUILDING MATERIALS

9.43	Allanglton	13			
1,605.20	BPB Ind	318	+ 8	3.6	13.8
40.20	Baggeridge Bk	99		3.9	13.0
211.50	Bardon	98	+ 3	6.8	
12.20	Blackseys	40	+ 5		
2,558.20	Blue Circle	349	+ 14	4.6	18.4
24.70	Brendon PLC	87	- 7	7.2	
21.90	Br Dredging	125		5.7	
2,095.80	CRH†	564	+ 12	2.0	
2.80	Caledonian Rty	48	+ 5	5.4	
89.70	Tarmt	164		3.4	11.7
1,283.40	Caradon	214	+ 9	5.7	
200.70	Caradon pl	111½	+ 3	8.1	
2.21	Chelsea Gp	26		3.9	
3.05	Dyson (JB.)	185		6.5	15.3
17.00	Dyson 'A'	80	+ 1	6.2	9.6
44.50	Epwin	206	- 3	5.6	12.9
30.90	Flare	163	- 10		
1.98	Gibbs & Dandy	93			3.8
259.80	Graham Gpt	196	+ 6	3.3	
123.20	Hartstead (J)	404	+ 5	2.7	17.4
685.40	Hepworth†	281	- 2½	6.6	14.4
4.93	Hewetson	53		5.9	11.2
227.00	Heywd Wmsn	234	- 4	7.4	12.7
194.90	Ibstock	70		3.1	11.5
43.30	Johnston	105	+ 12	3.5	
23.70	Lilleshall	83	+ 1	7.3	10.6
430.10	Marley	128	+ 5½	4.6	13.9
304.80	Marshalls†	166	- 6	3.6	11.9
505.10	Meyer Int	399	+ 14	3.6	15.1
173.90	Newman Tnks	136	+ 11	6.5	
150.30	Norcros	86	- 1		
12.00	Phoenix Timbr	25	- 1		26.0
2,180.20	Pilkington	208	- 1	3.0	16.5
282.20	Polypipe	178	- 3	1.9	16.5
2,487.40	RMC Gp	1093	+ 26	2.7	13.7
2,060.40	Redland	397	- 13	5.4	18.0
19.30	Ronacr	106	- 4	5.5	11.9
71.00	Rotaprint	147		3.4	17.6
775.10	Rugby Group†	121	+ 8	3.7	26.8
29.60	Russell (A)	132	+ 8	2.7	
186.40	SIG¶	291	+ 7	3.6	
4.51	SWP	5			
36.00	Sharpe & Fisher	126	- 2	3.9	
85.10	Spring Ram	184	- 1½		
111.00	Streetlare Hldgs	179	+ 4	5.4	
1,166.60	Tarmac	326	+ 13	5.6	
15.40	Tilbur	132		4.2	12.9
432.10	Travis Perkins	424	+ 26	2.8	17.8
3.37	Tudor	30		3.7	17.8
0.78	Warehouse^	31			
2,422.10	Wimpey	438	- 2	2.9	15.0

CHEMICALS

542.40	Albright & Wil	173	- 2	4.7	
698.40	Allied Colloids	131	- ½	2.5	20.0
39.40	Amtex Ind	188	- 10	3.8	12.5
49.20	Amberley Gp	81	+ 5	7.4	25.3
10,545.10	BASF (As)	5180½	+ 163½	3.4	
4,213.50	BOC	875	- 13	3.9	16.3
486.30	BTP	296	- 5	4.6	17.5
15,479.50	Bayer (Am)0	12233½	+ 269½	2.6	
60.20	Brent Chemcl	69		2.8	
456.90	Br Vita	292	- 2	4.8	16.9
66.30	Canning (W)	228	+ 8	3.5	14.5
1,786.00	Courtaulds	441	+ 11	4.4	20.2
455.90	Croda	341	+ 9	3.5	
31.50	Dodhse	238	- 2	3.5	
738.60	Elks & Everard	521	-	3.6	14.4
32.40	Euro Colour	83	- 2	2.9	20.2
19.60	Gibbon	107	- 3	4.3	13.5
137.30	Hickson	78	- 4	5.1	
13,709.70	Hoechst	6231½	- 325	2.5	
139.30	Holliday Chemcl	123½	- 1½	5.1	
6,599.50	ICI†	902	- 20	4.2	13.4
401.20	Inspec†	345	- 2	2.3	16.7
471.40	Lalleri	120	- 4	4.5	
1,366.30	Laporte†	782	+ ½	4.1	16.9
114.90	Manders†	288	+ ½	5.6	13.2
36.80	Meritem	97		2.3	
7.71	Micropro	22		5.5	
97.40	Porvair†	296		1.7	22.0
566.60	Scapa	228	+ 4	3.3	17.0
49.70	Schmitz Cppr	13		1.5	49.5
8,629.00	Tokyo Chem	1009½	- 14½	0.8	14.0
81.80	Wiltshire Pt	1090	- 2	2.8	
135.00	Yorks Chemt	373	- 3	3.9	
340.70	Yule Catto	336	- 1	2.8	17.9

DISTRIBUTORS

31.00	ABI Lds	94		5.8	9.7
18.80	Adam & Harvey	438	- 5	5.6	5.7
5.64	Alexanderst	12		8.3	
68.60	Angloscand†	103	- 2	7.5	
9.19	Ass Br Eng	37		2.1	
156.70	BSS Group	598	- 12	4.1	17.1
39.40	Bandf	28	- ½		
7.07	Bozzing Power	19½		7.9	13.1
1.21	Bogod A	25	+ 2	3.6	8.3

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

241.30	Bcameron	531½	+ 18½	3.4	
5.78	Bridgend Gp	29		3.2	
21.10	Brt Fibtoys	93	+ 5	5.9	
9.34	Cattyns	253	+ 3	5.1	19.5
34.50	Cloverdale	73	+ 1½	2.8	
9.72	Control Mic	71		0.9	
35.40	Cropley Sidney	85	- 4	5.4	13.4
32.90	Cosh (DC)	58		3.7	8.5
562.90	Covrot	349	+ 6	3.7	13.1
37.50	Dig Motors	155	+ 19	2.8	16.7
29.90	Dominoes B	163		2.8	14.7
230.90	Diploma	413	+ 2	4.4	13.4
1,546.10	Electrocomponts	365	+ 13	2.1	24.8
177.00	Enodis Elect	307	+ 15	1.8	27.7
68.30	Eurodisley	173	+ 19	2.9	7.4
44.50	Exsopan Mk	83		7.8	7.1
102.40	Evans Halshaw†	313	+ 10	6.5	
660.40	Forrest Elect	545	+ 35	1.9	18.8
9.77	Fits Inchtor	53		6.8	
90.50	Freefcd Dpt	276	+ 4	2.5	16.2
29.60	Gardenit	24	- ½	4.4	9.6
18.00	Glencheston	99½	- 1½	1.9	
8.10	Gowenga	88	+ 2	2.3	15.6
27.20	Harris (Prstn)	250		3.7	15.9
121.30	HeadlamA	231	+ 6	2.3	21.0
261.50	Hestry	642	+ 19	2.3	19.8
4.50	Holdens Techn^	145		5.2	27.6
70.00	ISA Intl	177	+ 1	1.7	
1,515.60	Inchcapet	387	+ 18	4.0	7.0
4.10	Jacks (Wm)	38		2.5	7.2
371.80	Kwik-Fit†	213	- 3	2.9	14.9
368.60	Lex Service†	319	+ 6	5.9	11.6
91.40	Lookers¶	124		6.0	
32.90	Malaya Grp	14	- ½		6.0
46.70	Middlecrft^	74		0.8	17.8
20.60	Middlmss	59			
55.00	Norbain	580	- 18	1.8	17.3
41.80	Northernfoot	246	- 1	0.9	19.7
13.10	PCT-D	147		6.5	10.5
105.20	Pozzidrnzoni	274	- 6	4.1	13.9
17.70	Penny Gp	167		4.9	
36.50	Quarks Group	158		5.1	
21.50	REA	242	+ 14	2.1	28.8
4.43	Renzie	21½			
17.90	Ransom	40	- 6	3.9	8.1
4.06	Recs Gp	2¾			
45.50	SFP Hdg†	50½	- 1	4.0	11.8
81.50	Sallers	16	- 3		9.1
153.80	Tace Products	338	- 1	4.8	16.8
5.81	Toms Hire	35	- 2	4.6	16.4
136.90	Vardy (Regd)	292	- 14	2.6	16.3
51.50	Wholesale Frgst	360		4.2	19.1
35.40	Wilshaw	38	- 2	2.6	9.0
57.50	Wyko†	113	+ 3	1.9	
14.30	Young (H)	110	- 3	4.4	12.9

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

4.59	Anglo Ind	0¯			
562.60	Ardalagazia	358	- 5	1.8	12.0
16,986.70	Bmisec Hld	1532½	+ 9	2.7	20.2
12,445.60	BTR†	1,000	+ 57	2.3	17.3
15,732.90	BATF	568	+ 14	5.9	10.6
391.10	Beresford Intl	192	+ 2	2.6	10.1
193.80	Bibby (J)	124	+ 6	5.8	10.0
1,588.00	Brierley Invt	68	+ ½	7.1	7.7
778.60	Bunzl†	696	+ 16	3.8	13.3
2,114.20	Caddbsryt	310		3.2	18.0
17.90	Cavalr†	147	- 1	7.4	9.3
92.10	Grampian Hldg	132	+ 4	6.0	
9,638.40	Hanson†	1870	- 4	4.2	27.8
1,115.40	Harrisn Crsfld	157	- 1	7.4	16.1
15,062.70	Hutch Whmp	416½	+ 1½	1.9	22.1
3,727.90	Jardine Math	518½	- 5½	3.2	
1,639.20	Lonrho	210½	- 2	2.9	23.6
107.70	McLeod Russel	175	+ 1	4.5	15.9
355.70	Powell Duffryn	413	- 17½	7.6	17.0
31.80	Reprent	136	- 2½	7.6	
3,593.10	Slms Darby	370	+ 1	2.8	15.4
2,427.50	Stanley	717	- 1	3.8	14.4
193.50	Sidort	164	- 6	7.5	
523.90	TT Group	327	+ 10	2.5	16.5
3,089.20	Tomkins†	260	+ 1	4.3	14.3
7.80	Trafalgar H	50	+ 1		
1,850.00	Unilever	2555		5.7	8.6
709.70	Wardle Storeys	430	+ 5	5.0	22.9
596.90	Wassall†	308	+ 2	2.4	16.4
105.00	Whitecroft	134	+ 2	2.4	17.4
1,844.40	Williams Hldg	318	+ 2	5.8	13.6

ELECTRICITY

1,220.70	East Midlands	615	+ 17	6.0	8.6
1,580.60	London Elect	783	+ 18	5.7	9.0
1,685.70	Midlands Elect	388	+ 3	6.0	9.8
3,573.50	National Grid	1995½	+ 75	6.0	9.0
2,511.80	Northern Elec	499	+ 23½	4.2	10.1
5,601.20	Nat Power PP	357½	+ 24½	4.2	10.2
1,767.80	Northern Elec	556	+ 25	6.5	8.2
687.40	Nthn Ireland	419	+ 3	4.3	9.5
17,767.80	PowerGen	1091	+ 71	3.9	10.1
4,018.50	PowerGen (P.P)	410	+ 15	3.8	11.9
1,251.70	Hydro Elect	326	+ 15	5.4	9.3
3,761.60	Scottish Power	359	+ 13½	5.0	10.5
1,550.40	Seeboard	554		3.4	11.5
1,768.30	Sth Wales	490		5.2	10.5
3,231.20	Southern Elec	975	+ 17	5.7	10.3
1,393.20	Yorkshire Elec	857	+ 52	5.3	9.8

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

109.50	Acm	557	+ 4	1.1	20.2
1,913.60	Arcom Comm	350	-		
1,913.60	Arcom	350	-	1.1	19.3
1,913.60	Arcom	350	-		
1,913.60	Arcom	350	-		
1,913.60	Arcom	350	-	

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: none scheduled.

Finals: Dewhirst Group, Henderson American Capital & Income Trust, Torday & Carlisle.

Economic Statistics: UK industrial production for February, UK manufacturing output for February, US wholesale inventories for February.

TOMORROW

Interims: Murray VCT.

Finals: Alpha Airports, Charnos, Intermediate Capital Group, Moss Bros, Yule Catto, Reece, Ruberoid, Sentry Farming, Jefferson Smurfit.

Economic Statistics: UK Confederation of British Industry distributive trades survey for March, UK cyclical indicators for February, German unemployment for March, French consumer sentiment survey for March.

THURSDAY

Interims: Cradley Group Holdings, Prestwick Holdings, Toye & Co.

Finals: Amec, Eadie Holdings, Nurdin & Peacock, Swallowfield, Tudor.

Economic Statistics: UK global trade balance for January, non-European Union trade balance for February, UK final M4 money supply data for February, UK producer prices for March, US weekly jobless claims, UK Staffordshire South East by-election, US retail sales for March, US Michigan consumer sentiment for April.

FRIDAY

Interims: none scheduled.

Finals: Abbot Group, Tracker Network.

Economic Statistics: US consumer prices for March, US real earnings for March, US business inventories for February, US Atlanta federal survey for March, French preliminary consumer prices for March.

COMPANIES  MICHAEL CLARK

Amec escapes to a brighter future



After repelling the Norwegians, Sir Alan Cockshaw is preparing to unveil full-year figures

AMEC: After last year's escape from the clutches of Kvaerner, which has since turned its attention to Trafalgar House, it seems unlikely that full-year figures on Thursday will hold much in the way of surprises.

Amec, whose chairman is Sir Alan Cockshaw, indicated in its defence document at the time of the Kvaerner bid that profits for 1995 would be pitched at about £20 million, compared with £26.3 million last time.

Scott Fulton, construction analyst with Merrill Lynch Smith New Court, is looking for a final figure of about £24.2 million with the final 3p dividend maintained. He points out that rival construction companies, such as Taylor Woodrow, John Laing, Alfred McAlpine and Mowlem, have all weighed in with full-year figures towards the top end of expectations. There is no reason to believe that Amec will be any different.

Amec is not your run-of-the-mill construction contractor. It is heavily involved in specialist areas such as offshore services and maintenance turnkey contracts. This is one of the reasons that Kvaerner was attracted to Amec in the first place.

Its other contract work is expected to have been positive despite the gloomy backdrop for the industry overall. But the real benefit of recent improvements is unlikely to be reflected until the current year, with the group having already forecast profits of £35 million.

Merrill Lynch Smith New Court is looking for a final outcome of £34 million.

NURDIN & PEACOCK: Last week's jump in the share price was prompted by renewed talk of a bid. The last attempt by its 14 per cent shareholder, SHV Makro, was roundly rejected. The privately owned Dutch group, which owns the Makro chain of cash-and-carry stores, had offered to swap its cash-and-carry assets for half of Nurdin's share capital. It is now free to make a hostile offer should it wish to, and this will no doubt have been behind the recent flurry of speculative activity in the shares. The rival Booker has also been considered a possible bidder in the past. There is clearly some attraction for these various predators, although you would hardly credit it from the group's performance in recent years, which has been disappointing to say the least.

There has been a steady stream of boardroom departures and the Cargo Warehouse venture was sold off last year to Sainsbury. Any hopes that conditions may have begun to improve were scuppered by the group's recent profits warning.

According to David Stoddart, of Henderson Crosthwaite, there is scope for some improvement in pre-tax profits, but it is likely to be marginal. Profits at the halfway stage were boosted to the tune of £8.1 million by the sale of the Cargo Club business.

Estimates for the full year range from £19 million to £20 million, compared with £16.7 million last time. There was evidence of a pick-up in sales during the second half, but this will have been achieved at the expense of margins.

No doubt the City will be anxious to hear what David Jones, the chief executive who arrived from Northern Foods last year, has got to say about the group's future direction.

MOSS BROS: Hopes are high for the menswear retailer, which includes names like the Savoy Taylors' Guild, the Suit Company and Cecil Gee, when it unveils full-year figures tomorrow. The group has been enjoying a period of sustained growth, which will account for the strength of the share price. The shares closed last week a whisker below their best ever at 744p.

At the halfway stage, the group unveiled a 67 per cent leap in pre-tax profits to £3.21 million, which was above market forecasts. This time round, the brokers are looking for anything between £9.5 million and £10.5 million compared with £7.4 million last time. Moss Bros is planning to open a further 35 stores during the next couple of years, raising the total to 150.

JEFFERSON SMURFIT: The paper industry has had more than its fair share of problems in the past year, and events there will form the main focus of interest when the Irish paper and packaging group reports tomorrow.

Brokers are looking in a range of Ir£405 million to Ir£420 million.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

All eyes fall on the US

The financial markets will start the week focused on the path of the US economy after last Friday's better than expected March employment figures. Further fodder for the debate about exactly how strong the American recovery might be will come on Thursday with March figures for US retail sales.

There will also be producer prices and consumer prices figures, particularly important to the Treasury bond market, which is in the early stages of paranoia about rising inflation and interest rates.

However, there is also plenty of food for thought in Britain. On the political front, there is the Staffordshire South East by-election on Thursday. If the Government loses, as expected, its majority in the Commons will be cut to one, a development likely to prompt nervousness in gilt and currency markets.

On the statistical front, the week kicks off today with figures for February industrial and manufacturing production. According to a consensus of market forecasts compiled by MMS International, industrial production is expected to have risen 0.5 per cent after a fall of 0.5 per cent in January. This would leave year-on-year growth at 1.4 per cent, the same as in January.

Manufacturing industry is expected to have grown only 0.3 per cent, reducing its year-on-year growth to 0.5 per cent, from 1.1 per cent in January. Output is still being depressed as companies try to adjust to last year's huge involuntary build-up of stocks. Tomorrow sees publication of the latest distributive sales survey from the Confederation of British Industry, which will give an idea of retail trade in March. Cyclical indicators are also published for February.

There will be more reminders of the weak performance of continental economies. German figures for manufacturing orders are expected early this week and are forecast to have fallen 0.3 per cent in February after a 0.1 per cent decline in January. Orders are running well below last year's levels. Retail sales are also due out and are expected to show no year-on-year growth. German unemployment figures, due tomorrow, should show another rise. The Bank of France holds a council meeting on Thursday and may trim interest rates.

JANET BUSH

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Golf at the Grove

THE Grove in Watford, once home to the Earl of Clarendon and owned by British Rail for the past 20 years, is soon to be turned into a 100-bedroom hotel and golf course by the Levy brothers.

The 18th century Grade II listed mansion, a former BR management training centre, was sold for about £2 million in the wake of rail privatisation. Its new owners, Daniel and Stuart Levy, who also own the Athenaeum in London and the Runnymede Hotel in Surrey, are currently deep in negotiation with a local farmer who keeps 110,000 chickens on 275 acres of the 312-acre estate. The Levys want to buy him out of the remainder of his tenancy.

Heads in the sand

RUFFLED feathers in the ostrich world appear to have gone unnoticed at *Harpers & Queen*, which hails *volaise* as the meat of the millennium. Whether you eat it, wear it or invest in it, the glossy mag informs its armchair farmers: "One such company guarantees a return of 57 per cent pa, a high-flying investment for an earthbound bird."

Egg found

LONDON'S streets were quieter than they might have been over the Easter weekend, for guests at the Four Seasons Hotel were busy seeking an egg worth £845. Hidden at the hotel was an 18-carat gold egg in turquoise enamel, designed by Sarah Fabergé for the St Petersburg Collection. It was found nestling between tea and toast on a room service breakfast tray.

EMPLOYEES of BAA, the former British Airports Authority, are getting in a flap over uniforms at a new pub on the Fulham Road. Bar staff at The Tup, named after the farming term for a ram, have been seen in uniforms emblazoned with the motif "BAA STAFF", not unlike those seen at Gatwick and Heathrow.

MORAG PRESTON

Why political risk factor should attract investors

One of the main reasons gilts are out of favour is supposedly political risk. In so far as this relates to a change of government, it is difficult to understand why people do not believe this is already discounted in current yields and spreads versus other markets. Labour has enjoyed a large poll lead over the Conservatives for many months. No governing party has ever recovered such a poll deficit. Given that the election is, at most, 13 months away, investors ought to know that most of the remaining life of the majority of gilts they are holding will be under a Labour government. So why do some people think "political risk" is a good reason not to hold gilts? It is argued that the time horizon of the market is very short and only once the election campaign is almost upon us will it factor in political risk. However, the Government's majority will be down to one after Thursday's by-election. We may only be a death, a defection or a parliamentary defeat away from a general election.

GILT-EDGED

A more convincing argument relates to the last days of this Government. What last-ditch desperation on policy will they be tempted into? How will the markets react? Even these concerns should be at least partly factored in.

What is the evidence? Firstly, spreads between gilt and bund yields are currently about 185bp (annual basis). This is about the difference seen at the last election when it looked as though the Conservatives would lose. Secondly, sterling has recovered much less than other recent devaluers against the mark. Thirdly, the real yield on gilts is above its ten-year average and above that in the other G5 countries.

Taken at face value, there will be little discernible difference in macroeconomic policy if Labour wins. There is probably more risk in the City of being too cynical about Labour's macroeconomic policy than of being too complacent. Labour is likely to be more constructive on EMU, and the general tenor of government ought to be more decisive.

With gilts underperforming in recent weeks and the inflation differential with Germany set to fall, gilts look a better bet than most other bond markets. The political risk premium in gilts probably represents an opportunity to buy rather than a reason to avoid them.

There may still be a good reason to be nervous about gilts in the short term, but that has little to do with politics or economic fundamentals exclusive to the UK. The main risk comes from a continuing recovery in world economic activity and a continuing slide in US bond prices. Whether world bond yields go up or down, gilts should, on a relative basis, be one of the better-performing bond markets.

DOUG JONES
NatWest Investment Management

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar
1.5280 (+0.0018)
German mark
2.2622 (+0.0091)
Exchange index
83.6 (+0.2)

Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
2796.7 (+28.7)
FT-SE 100
3755.6 (+55.9)
New York Dow Jones
5682.88 (+95.74)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
21471.16 (+64.31)

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.04	1.88
Austria Sch	16.90	15.40
Belgium Fr	49.44	45.14
Canada $	2.180	2.020
Cyprus Cypf.	0.749	0.684
Denmark Kr	9.34	8.54
Finland Mkk	7.64	6.99
France Fr	8.11	7.48
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	388.00	363.00
Hong Kong $	12.45	11.45
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1700	4.5200
Italy Lira	2484.00	2339.00
Japan Yen	177.50	161.50
Malta	0.591	0.536
Netherlds Gld	2.680	2.450
New Zealand $	2.38	2.16
Norway Kr	10.38	9.58
Portugal Esc	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd	6.78	5.96
Spain Pta	196.50	183.50
Sweden Kr	10.78	9.98
Switzerland Fr	1.86	1.78
Turkey Lira	113680.	105680.
USA $	1.624	1.494

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading Thursday.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

1995-1996 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
134	109	17.40	AMCO Corp	122	- 7	4.6	13.4
58	18	2.09	Abacus Recruit	38	...	...	...
130	123	18.40	A de Gruchy	125	...	5.6	10.4
18	7¼	15.70	African Gold	15¼	- ¾	...	...
13½	13	5.01	Albemarle & Bd	13½	...	...	...
24	18	9.44	Alpha Omikron	18	- 1	...	...
415	380	37.30	Ann St Brewery	390	...	5.6	11.7
895	885	5.30	Ann St Cv Pf	895	...	8.9	...
121	83	62.50	Antonov	88	- 8	...	...
9	8	2.13	Arion Props	8	...	...	...
75	68	10.90	Ask Central	68	...	...	...
61	58	1.10	Athelney Trust	61	...	...	...
6½	5½	5.76	Ballyntray	5½	- ½	...	...
20	17	5.13	Baris Hldgs	20	...	...	...
46	43	3.85	Belcanto	43	...	...	...
150	140	0.99	Bowness Leis	145	...	3.9	...
70	70		Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	...
60	50	5.82	Brancote Hldgs	58	- 2	...	...
345	240	40.70	Brockbank	345	...	2.7	...
118	118	0.94	CCI Hldgs	118	...	...	...
118	110	0.13	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...
145	95	4.14	Cafe Inns	145	+ 25	1.7	11.9
75	55	7.39	Caledonian Tst	65	...	...	7.9
2	2	1.84	Capital & Wstn	2	...	...	...
83	58	16.40	Card Clear	73	- 3	6.0	8.8
72	60	3.39	Cassidy Bros	62	...	...	20.8
43	41	1.79	Cavendish W F	41	...	...	...
18	17	4.99	Celebrated Group	17	...	...	...
£110	6550	28.60	Celtic	£110	+1450	...	...
£105	8450		Celtic Pf Shs	£105	+1050	...	...
124	109	16.40	Cl Comms(TV)	122	+ 5	2.5	15.7
86	62	7.79	Chartwell Intl	73	+ 3	...	...
110	110	0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	...
31	28	13.10	ClubPartners	31	...	...	...
510	510	12.20	Com de Pri Fin	510	...	5.0	10.0
44	37	8.76	Conister Tst	40	...	2.1	...
85	58	15.70	Country Gdns	85	+ 4	9.1	...
73	70	2.68	Cntry Gdns Pf	73	...	...	...
63	53	35.60	Creos Intl	99	...	...	...
109	92	21.20	Crown Products	56	...	...	...
63	53	13.50	DBS Management	200	+ 10	3.8	8.1
210	152		Dalkeith Inns	34	...	...	...
35	34			66	...	5.5	9.4
66	63	3.58	David Gless	1275	+ 25	2.9	34.2
1275	860	58.30	Dawson Hldgs	13	...	2.0	...
14	11	9.79	Dean Corp	307	...	...	70.9
325	305	31.50	Dicom	61	- 4	...	...
76	60	11.40	Dmatek	108	- 14	...	...
137	105	15.40	Easynet	137	- 13	...	...
200	115	88.60	Electrophoretics	120	...	...	...
125	120	5.40	Euro Sales Fn	345	...	...	...
345	225		Fairlake	245	...	...	...
260	75	5.77	Finl Pubs	78	- 4	...	...
188	70	13.00	Firecrest	181	- 2	...	...
193	180	36.70	First Intl	208	- 2	1.6	...
220	188	5.33	Fromerics	333	+ 5	0.4	15.1
333	253	7.74	Floral St	188	...	1.5	21.9
193	136	17.70	Formscan	19	+ 2½	...	...
19	14	69.70	Freepages	105	...	3.0	...
106	93	5.25	Furlong Homes	8¾	...	...	...
9¾	8½	25.30	Gander Hldgs	18	- 1	...	...
22	15	5.40	Greenhills	145	...	3.5	...
147	145	32.40	Gulton	23	...	...	...
41	23	2.34	Hanson	127	- 3	0.3	...
133	120	57.70	Hiscox Dpd Inc	80	...	...	...
80	80	0.93	Hurlingham	107	...	...	...
112	105	10.70	Indpt Radio	85	...	...	...
88	85	14.20	Inter Workings	513	...	1.2	...
523	503	21.50	Intl Greetings	125	- 6	...	...
143	108	30.60	IOC Intl	95	...	...	14.3
103	83	3.87	Jasmin	305	+ 5	2.6	21.9
305	280	22.50	Jennings Bros	103	- 2	...	...
125	103	39.00	KS Biomedix	160	+ 22½	3.1	12.9
160	137	28.90	Lancashire En	243	...	0.8	...
243	210	14.80	Lawrence	2550	-200	3.5	13.0
2750	2550	49.80	Lawrie Group	260	+ 5	7.4	25.5
285	255	43.10	Le Riches Strs				

1995-1996 High	Low	Mkt cap (million)		Price pence	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
95	85		Lifehome As Ten	85	- 10	...	...
3¼	2	31.50	Lon Fiduciary	3¼	+ ¼	...	...
70	55	1.38	London Town	55	...	...	...
228	200	12.30	Lorien Grp	215	+ 5	2.2	...
25	16	9.42	Marx & O'seas	16	- 3	2.5	21.7
130	113	15.10	Marine & Marc S	125	+ 2	...	...
117	92	42.70	Megalomedia	99	+ 2	...	...
99	79		Megalomedia Wts	91	+ 2	...	...
111	66	6.71	Mellek	106	...	3.0	...
475	125	85.80	Memory Corp	145	- 10	...	...
22	21	6.33	Metrodome Films	22	...	...	...
220	156	15.60	Moorepay	205	+ 5	2.7	...
0¼	0¼	9.27	Mountcashel	0¼	...	...	...
89	67	24.80	MultiMedia	86	+ 13	...	...
340	285	21.80	NWF Grp	290	...	2.8	14.0
210	175		Nash (Wm)	200	...	4.1	...
345	335	8.73	Neill Clark	345	...	2.2	16.7
208	200	5.49	Neilson Cobbold	200	...	2.4	10.0
73	85		Norcity II	73	...	...	...
73	63		Norhomes	73	...	...	...
76	66	7.56	Nthn Petim	66	...	...	...
8	8	0.13	Nthn Petim Wts	8	...	...	...
70	58		Nthmb Res Prps	58	- 5	...	...
116	111	17.80	Nursing Home	115	...	1.3	33.1
110	90	13.50	Old English Pub	110	+ 2	1.1	...
92	84	5.67	Omnicare	92	+ 2	0.7	...
68	51	9.48	Omnimedia	53	+ 2	...	...
93	66	21.60	Optical Care	93	+ 10	...	...
1¾	1	18.70	Pacific Media	1¾	+ ¼	...	...
55	43		Pacific Med Pf	54	- 1	...	...
93	17¼	27.20	Pan Andean Res	66	- 4	...	...
195	180	4.31	Park Ests(Liv)	180	...	...	...
445	365	94.70	Pet City	390	...	...	...
169	125	29.80	Polymasc Pharms	149	...	...	...
450	400	5.54	Preston Nth E	430	...	...	...
105	103	16.50	Primary Hlth Pr	103	...	...	...
34	32	3.06	Raphael Zm	34	...	4.6	21.3
105	95	1.02	Revelation Plc	95	- 5	...	...
17	16	10.60	Riceman Insce	16	...	...	...
4½	3½	3.60	Rushmere Wynne	4	...	...	...
1¾	0¾	0.14	Rush Wyn Wts	1½	- ¼	...	...
126	48	4.94	SCS Satellite	48	...	...	...
31	20	2.16	Scotswood Inds	31	...	4.0	29.3
43	28		Scott Pride	33	...	...	...
320	270	14.90	Scruttons	310	- 10	5.4	...
60	33	2.04	Self Sealing	35	...	...	...
3	2½		Silkbarn	3	...	...	...
10¼	7	59.90	SkyePharma	9	...	...	...
9	6	0.97	SkyePharma B Wts	8	...	...	...
595	524	140.30	Southern News	595	+ 11	3.4	15.6
68	50		Southern Vectis	68	+ 3	...	...
615	255	94.80	Stanford Rook	515	+ 10	...	...
185	122	18.00	Surrey Fr Inns	178	+ 3	1.4	20.9
138	121	16.30	Syst Integ Restn	122	...	...	...
915	585	31.00	TRACKER Netwk	585	- 40	...	...
55	38	4.14	Tele Cred Eur	41	- 2	...	...
43	28		Tele Cred Wrts	28	- 5	...	...
116	101	17.70	Toad	105	...	...	...
180	175		Trinity Care	180	+ 5	1.0	...
170	165		Trinity Care Pf	170	...	...	...
56	46	219.60	Trocadero	52	...	...	...
40	40		Univent	40	...	...	...
458	403	7.17	Utd. Auctions	403	...	1.2	...
805	589¾	15.70	VDC	780	- 3¼	3.1	14.2
13½	13½	35.70	Versailles Grp	13½	...	...	22.0
325	130	8.25	Viewinn	275	...	...	...
428	252		Voss	363	- 15	...	...
13	7		Wedderburn Secs	8	- 2	...	...
5	3		Wedd Secs Wrnts	3	- 1	...	...
19	13	5.25	Western Selectn	15	...	...	59.7
6	5	0.31	Western Sel Wt	5	...	...	...
31	26	2.66	Westmount Engy	26	- 2	...	...
75	50	5.87	W'chester M Md	53	- 3	...	...
145	130		Wynnstay Props	130	...	...	...
300	170	28.30	Zergo	285	...	...	...

WALL STREET

	Apr 8 midday	Apr 4 close
AMP Inc	42¾	43
AMR Corp	89⅝	90⅜
ASA	45⅝	46
AT & T	60⅛	62⅜
Abbott Labs	42	42
Advanced Micro	17	17⅜
Aetna Life	72⅜	73⅝
Ahmanson (H F)	23⅜	24⅛
Air Prod & Chem	54⅜	55⅛
AirTouch Comm	28⅜	29⅛
Alberto-Culver B	37⅜	39⅜
Albertson's	36⅛	37¼
Alcan Aluminm	31⅛	32
Alco Standard	50⅜	52⅜
Allied Signal	56⅝	58⅝
Alum Co of Am	62⅛	62
Amax Gold Inc	6⅞	6⅝
Amerada Hess	57⅛	57⅛
Amer Brands	43	45
Amer El Power	39⅝	41⅛
Amer Express	49⅝	50⅝
Amer Genl Corp	34⅛	35
Amer Home Pr	108⅛	110
Amer Intl	91½	93⅝
Amer Stores	33	34⅛
Amer Standard	28⅜	28⅝
Ameritech	53⅞	54⅛
Amoco	72⅝	73⅜
Anheuser-Busch	68⅛	69⅜
Apple Computer	23⅝	24⅛
Archer Daniels	18⅝	19⅛
Armco	5⅜	5⅞
Armstrng Wrld	58⅜	59⅜
Asarco	33⅝	34
Ashland Oil	36⅜	38⅛
Atl Richfield	119⅝	123
Auto Data Pro	38⅝	40
Avery Dennison	55⅛	55⅝
Avon Products	90⅛	93⅛
Baker Hughes	38⅛	39⅜
Baltim G&E Cl El	26⅛	27⅛
Banc One	35⅜	36⅛
BankAmerica	75⅝	78⅛
Bank of NY	30⅜	32⅛
Bankers Tr NY	68⅝	70⅜
Barnett Banks	62⅜	63⅞
Bausch & Lomb	36⅛	37⅛
Baxter Intl	44⅛	44⅛
Becton Dickinsn	81⅛	82⅛
Bell Atlantic	59⅝	62
Bell Industries	21⅛	22⅝
BellSouth	35⅞	37⅛
Black & Decker	37⅛	38
Block (HAR)	26	27⅜
Boeing	82⅛	85⅝
Boise Cascade	40⅛	41⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	95⅞	97⅛
Browning Ferris	31½	31⅛
Brunswick	22⅜	23⅛
Burlington Nthn	79⅛	81⅛
CMS Energy Corp	29⅛	29⅝
CNA Financial	106⅜	107½
CPC Intl	69⅞	70⅛
CSX	64⅛	65⅞
Campbell Soup	59⅝	62⅝
Can Pacific	19⅜	19⅛
Carolina Pwr	35½	37
Caterpillar	87⅝	89⅛
Central & SW	27⅜	28⅛
Champion Intl	44½	45⅜
Chase Manhat	70⅛	73⅛
Chevron Corp	56	57½
Chrysler	61½	63⅜
Chubb Corp	91½	93⅝
Ciena Corp	107⅞	111
Citicorp	78⅛	81
Citrus	85⅛	87
Coastal Corp	39⅜	40
Coca Cola	81⅛	83⅝
Colgate-Palmolive	77⅛	79
Columbia Gas	44⅛	45½
ColumbiaHCA	52	52⅝
Compaq Comp	37⅝	37⅝
Comp Ass Int	69⅝	72
Conagra	40⅝	41⅞
Conrail	70⅜	71½
Cons Edison	30⅜	31¼
Cons Nat Gas	44⅝	45⅞
Cooper Inds	38⅛	39⅛
Corestates	40⅝	41⅞
Corning Inc	34⅜	35⅝
Crown Cork	46⅛	47⅞
Dana Corp	31⅜	33⅛
Dayton Hudson	84⅜	86½
Deere	42⅝	43⅝
Delta Air Lines	79⅝	81½
Delutx Corp	31⅛	32⅝
Digital Equip	52⅝	53⅝
Dillard Dept St	32⅝	33⅝
Disney (Walt)	84⅛	86
Dominion Res	38⅛	39⅝
Donelley (RR)	35⅝	36½
Dover Corp	44⅜	45½
Dow Chemical	87⅞	88
Dow Jones	37	38⅛
Dresser	25⅜	25⅞
Duke Power	47½	49⅛
Dun & Bradstreet	59⅛	60
Du Pont	82½	84⅝
Eastman Chem	66½	67⅝

	Apr 8 midday	Apr 4 close
Eastman Kodak	69⅜	70⅝
Eaton Corp	61	61½
Edison Int	15⅝	16⅛
Emerson Elec	81½	84⅛
Engelhard Corp	22⅝	23⅜
Enron Corp	36⅛	37½
Entergy	26½	27⅜
Ethyl Corp	10⅜	10⅛
Exxon	83⅛	85⅞
FMC Corp	73⅜	75⅛
FPL Group	44⅛	45
Federal Express	71⅜	74⅛
Fed Nat Mtge	32	33⅛
First Bk Sys	59⅜	60⅜
First Union Rlty	7⅛	7⅛
Fleet Finl Grp	40½	42⅜
Fluor Corp	66½	67⅜
Ford Motor	34⅛	35⅜
GTE Corp	41⅛	43⅛
Gannett	66⅝	67⅛
Gap Inc Del	51⅛	53⅜
Gen Dynamics	57⅛	57⅝
Gen Electric	78⅞	80⅝
Gen Mills	56⅛	58⅛
Gen Motors	54⅝	55⅝
Gen Reinsurance	144	147
Gen Signal	35⅝	36⅛
Genuine Parts	45⅛	45½
Georgia Pac	66⅝	68⅛
Gillette	50⅛	52⅛
Glaxo Wellc ADR	34½	34½
Goodrich (BF)	39⅞	40⅝
Goodyear Tire	50⅜	52
Grace (W&R)	76⅛	78
Grt Atl Pac Tea	32⅞	32⅝
Grtwst Wstn Fin	23	24½
Halliburton	56½	58⅛
Harcourt General	44⅝	46½
Heinz (HJ)	32⅜	33⅞
Hercules	58⅛	60⅛
Hershey Foods	76⅛	77⅞
Hewlett Packard	94⅛	96½
Hilton Hotels	96	97
Home Depot	45⅞	46⅝
Homestake Mng	19⅝	19⅞
Honeywell	55⅝	56⅜
Household Intl	67⅞	70⅛
Houston Inds	21⅛	22⅝
Humana	25⅝	26⅛
ITT Corp	59⅝	62½
Illinois Tool	63⅝	65½
Illinova	28⅜	28⅞
INCO	31⅛	31⅞
Ingersoll Rand	39⅛	40⅛
Inland Steel	26	25⅞
Intel Corp	59⅜	59⅝
IBM	115⅝	117⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	48⅝	49⅝
Intl Paper	38⅛	38⅝
James River Va	24½	25⅛
Johns & Johns	91¼	94⅝
Kellogg	74	75⅞
Kerr-McGee	64⅜	64⅞
Kimberly-Clark	75⅜	76⅛
Kmart	9	9
Knight-Ridder	67⅛	67⅞
Lilly (Eli)	62⅛	64⅜
Limited Inc	18	18⅛
Lincoln Nat	49⅝	52
Litton	43⅜	44
Lk Claiborne	33⅝	34½
Lockheed Martin	76	78½
Louisiana Pac	23⅜	23⅝
MCI Comm	28	29½
Marriott Int	45⅛	48
Marsh & McLen	89⅝	92⅝
Masco Corp	27	28
May Dept St	45⅛	47⅜
Maytag Corp	19⅝	19⅝
McDonalds	42⅝	43⅝
McDonnell D	89½	92⅝
McGraw Hill	86½	87
Mead Corp	52⅛	53½
Medtronic	57⅛	58⅜
Mellon Bk	53⅞	56
Melville Corp	36½	36⅞
Merck Inc	61½	63⅞
Merrill Lynch	58⅝	61½
Microsoft	102½	104½
Minnesota Mine	82⅝	85⅛
Mobil Corp	116	119⅜
Monsanto	151½	153½
Morgan (JP)	81	83½
Mourain Inc	51⅛	51⅛
Nat Semi	13⅝	13⅞
Natl Service Ind	27⅞	28⅝
Navistar Int	10⅝	11⅛
NY Times A	31	31⅝
Newmonts Mng	58⅛	58⅞
Nlsg Mohawk	6⅛	6½
Nike B	80⅜	82
NL Industries	11⅛	12
Noram Energy	8⅛	9

Cruel new myths give competition a bad name



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Easter is supposed to be about hope and new beginnings, especially for those in despair. There has not been much of it about for those facing economic gloom. Instead, from all sides, they are offered realism. Last week's jobs summit in Lille provided a typical exhibition of this school of thought. It was variously told that the answer lay in sound finances, lower government spending, cuts in welfare payments, more competition, more flexible labour markets, greater labour mobility, more training, faster change and lower wages to cope with competition from the developing world.

Many of these are desirable. Together, they offer a cruel myth rather than a beacon of hope for those who are excluded from dignity, security and a reasonable income from their labour. They are not even compatible with one another.

Stable, non-inflationary growth certainly provides the best background for business and individuals to plan ahead. So it is the best recipe for the dynamic economies of Asia. If stability requires high real interest rates and low economic growth, however, it will not create enough real new jobs. Nor will it make mature economies more dynamic. On the Continent, at least, the rush to meet the Maastricht tests and defend currencies has raised unemployment.

Unless the indigent are just left to their own devices, more flexible labour markets, greater competition, lower pay and labour mobility tend to raise public spending and taxation. The lesson from America, the paragon of flexibility, is that a fast-moving hire and fire labour market goes with high unemployment. Until recently, low-paid workers paid for job creation there, gaining nothing from rising output.

At the moment, America's 5½ per cent jobless rate looks pretty good in Europe, where Britain's 8 per cent compares with 12 per cent in France and worse in Spain. But America has achieved that only after four years of solid growth. It has not done much better in past decades when that 5½ per cent would have been outrageous in Britain and the welfare state was, consequently, affordable. It hardly matters whether a flexible market needs a pool of unemployed to avoid inflation, or that there are just a lot of people between jobs. Compare that with Japan. In Europe, labour mobility breaks down "free" family welfare systems. Lower wages for fringe jobs force more family members into the labour market.

Internal competition and imports from low-wage countries are axing swaths of jobs. The stock market presses big companies to "downsize" to raise returns and regulators impose ersatz competition on utilities to swap jobs for price cuts. Last week, the CBI/Coopers & Lybrand survey of the financial sector revealed that, thanks to rising competition and computers, nearly half the firms surveyed expected to axe jobs at the same time as they looked forward to more business. This may be good for the economy, but not for jobs, unless cheaper insurance policies, telephone calls and industrial power stimulate higher growth elsewhere in the economy.

Conventional wisdom says that small and medium-sized enterprises, or SMEs, create the new jobs. In America, since 1993, the fastest job creation has been in companies employing an average 500 people. State encouragement should be concentrated on such young, growing companies. Even this, however, is not as simple as it seems. Prue Leith, the caterer and enterprise guru, told a small business audience last week that the best aid they could get from government would be state subsidies for redundancy payments. Yes, enterprise companies can shrink as well as grow.

If ambitious proprietors of smaller firms have special protection from regulations, employment laws and both personal and company tax, no wonder they prosper at the expense of leviathans. Big companies are supposed to be fat enough to pay for these social "extras". But they are also supposed to have become lean and hungry. No wonder they are shedding jobs so fast. Either the SMEs should lose their unfair advantage, in which case they might create fewer jobs, or the job-losing giants should enjoy the same derogations, cutting standards.

Given these less fashionable realities, protection was almost bound to make a spectral appearance at the Lille Talkfest, via the unlikely revival of an old alliance between France and America. Unless someone can find some reason why European economies should grow at a pace not seen since the postwar catch-up period, the unmentionable suddenly becomes attractive. If permanent pressure to adjust to global competition makes poorer workers' living standards more likely to fall than to rise, ensures that jobs are insecure and forces companies to cut employment to the bone, free trade and competition begin to seem public virtues the unemployed can no longer afford.

Britain opposed a code of minimum labour standards for trade, not least because it was the thin end of a wedge that might later be inserted into the European single market. But Britain is the biggest beneficiary of EU protection of geriatric industries. Manufacturing is recovering and unemployment lower because non-EU manufacturers need a base within the EU's walls and English is the language of multinationals.

Free trade and competition have brought huge benefits to living standards. But they should not be taken for granted. If European governments think these are vital ingredients for success, they must adjust tax, spending and many another policy to make them work for the poor and unemployed voters of advanced countries. There is an alternative. Lectures are not enough.

Jon Ashworth and **Robert Miller** on the new look at the Serious Fraud Office

Dented image brought to book



High-profile cases included George Walker, left, Elizabeth Forsyth, Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Roger Levitt

The Serious Fraud Office has a seriously new image. Staff return from the Easter break to a newly structured office, based on multi-disciplinary teams, well placed to tackle an increasingly heavy workload. The move marks the boldest attempt yet to shake off an unhappy association with bungled raids, cavalier investigations, and embarrassing acquittals.

Kevin and Ian Maxwell and George Walker are among high-profile acquittals after marathon trials costing millions of pounds. Roger Levitt received a token sentence after a plea-bargain with the SFO went wrong, and Asil Nadir trumped the courts by fleeing Britain before he could come to trial. The SFO enjoys dozens of unsung successes, but it is the high-profile failures that are remembered. Persuading the public to forget will be no mean task.

Under the new look, the SFO has reorganised itself into five teams of lawyers and accountants, each headed by a senior lawyer and liaising with regional police forces across the UK. Team leaders include Robert Wardle, who led the Elizabeth Forsyth investigation, and James Kellock, who oversaw the Barings inquiry.

The threshold for investigating cases has dropped from £5 million to £1 million, and an extension to the Section 2 powers has led to a surge in co-operation with overseas agencies, including the FBI. The new image promises much, even if the continuing reliance on juries makes the outcome of "show-stopper" fraud cases as much of a lottery as ever.

In the past year, the SFO has secured 19 convictions in 12 trials involving 24 defendants. About 70 cases are currently "live", and there has been a big rise in requests for assistance from countries as diverse as Germany, the Ukraine, Norway, The Netherlands, America and Argentina.

Many of the requests centre on the use of Section 2 powers to seize documents and interrogate suspects. The Government agreed to extend the use of these controversial powers just over a year ago, providing foreigners with a "fast track" means of obtaining information in the UK. The SFO hopes to benefit through increased co-operation in its own overseas inquiries. The SFO's approach to prosecuting fraud cases has evolved from the old system of pressing as many charges as possible and backing them up with a veritable mountain of paperwork. Now, the approach is one of simplicity. Fewer charges are put, and are backed up with less, but generally more damning, documentation.

The reforms follow the Davie Committee's report of March 1995, which advised against merging the SFO with the Crown Prosecution Service. Thus reprieved, the SFO set about assessing internal management structure and relations with the police — both potential areas of conflict. Many of the SFO's past problems have been attributed to internal disputes between lawyers, accountants and police.

The immediate changes are the work of George Staple, the SFO director widely criticised for his decision to mount a second trial against Kevin Maxwell. Mr Staple, who retires in April 1997, believes the SFO is well placed to tackle the next inevitable cycle of serious fraud.

He believes that the five-team structure will help the SFO to cope with its greater workload. Each team will adopt its own group of regional police forces in the hope of improving relations.

Mr Staple insists that morale is good, but admits frustration that the SFO's many successes go largely unreported. He said: "I think the taxpayer gets good value from the SFO. Before the SFO, these cases weren't done very well. We didn't have the know-how; we didn't have the powers to conduct the investigation. The whole approach was very different."

The increased interplay with regional police forces is witnessed in the ongoing case of Rom Data, a failed West Country computer firm. The SFO investigation, codenamed Operation Gale, was launched last autumn in conjunction with Devon and Cornwall police. The operation was later extended to take in other companies.

Internationally, the Barings inquiry tested the SFO's new-found mettle. Five years ago, the SFO might well have succumbed to the all-party pressure from MPs and a Commons early day motion to bring Nick Leeson back to the UK. Leeson pledged to plead guilty to false accounting and obtaining money by deception. In a series of "under caution" interviews in his Frankfurt prison cell, he gave the SFO the necessary evidence to secure a conviction against him.

However, combating fraud has become an international effort, and up to 80 per cent of the SFO's caseload involves at least one, and very often three or four, overseas jurisdictions. Under the auspices of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) on money laundering, which comprises 26 governments, including the UK, various accords have been signed. These, coupled with other mutual co-operation treaties between different countries, mean that a defendant will generally be tried in the jurisdiction in which the crime is committed. Leeson's activities centred on Singapore, and the SFO argued that he should go on trial there.

The SFO has enjoyed a recent run of successes, culminating in the Forsyth conviction. Muhammed Naviede, the former chairman and chief executive of Arrows, was sentenced to nine years over the £100 million collapse of his business empire. Charles Deacon, a solicitor, got nine years for stealing money from the Belling pension fund.

Apart from conviction rates, it is hard to gauge how effective the SFO has been in fighting fraud. Anecdotal evidence suggests that fraudsters who had considered setting up a UK base from which to launch scams against investors in other countries have been deterred.

Attention is turning increasingly to offshore centres such as the Seychelles, whose local laws have been dubbed a charter for money-launderers. SFO lawyers are having to drop potential prosecutions because of the obstacles placed in their way by small island states. A change of image is not always enough.

KEY DATES IN THE HISTORY OF THE SFO

AUG 1990: Guinness I trial results in conviction of Ernest Saunders, Gerald Ronson, Anthony Parnes, and Jack Lyons. Saunders later takes his case to the European Court of Human Rights.

JUNE 1991: Robert Miller, sole director of Dunsdale Securities, jailed for six years on fraud and theft charges. Freed in March 1993 after serving 21 months.

FEB 1992: Peter Clowes convicted of theft and fraud after 112-day trial. Sentenced to ten years in prison, but freed after four years. Now suing the Home Secretary.

AUG 1992: Final Blue Arrow defendants cleared in one of worst debacles for SFO. First four of 14 defendants found guilty, but cleared on appeal.

FEB 1993: Thomas Ward cleared of stealing £5.2 million from Guinness. Ward claimed the payment was a success fee.

SEPT 1993: Syed Akbar jailed for six years in the first of a string of Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) cases. BCCI remains a high-spot for the SFO.

NOV 1993: Roger Levitt pleads guilty to misleading financial regulators. Sentenced to 180 hours' community service.

MARCH 1994: Wallace Duncan Smith jailed for six years over £100 million banking fraud.

MAY 1994: Nazmudin Virani, former head of Control Securities, sentenced to 2½ years for hoodwinking BCCI's auditors. Freed in August 1995.

OCT 1994: George Walker cleared of orchestrating £19.3 million profits fraud at Brent Walker. Wilfred Aquilina, former finance director, convicted of one charge of false accounting and fined £25,000.

JAN 1996: Kevin and Ian Maxwell, and Larry Trachtenberg, former adviser, cleared of £122 million conspiracy to defraud Maxwell pensioners. SFO announces plans for second Maxwell trial.

MARCH 1996: Elizabeth Forsyth, former aide to Asil Nadir, convicted of handling nearly £400,000 in stolen funds. Sentencing expected on April 24.

RADIO CHOICE

Death, here is thy sting

Venom: Jellyfish. *Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.*

Death will come as an immense vexation to Matthew Parris because he says it will stop him getting answers to all sorts of questions about all sorts of things. Jellyfish, for instance, which occupy the mind of *The Times* columnist as he jogs along the Spanish beach that is bespangled with them. Is the jellyfish capable of nostalgia? Can it experience regret? Jeremy Grange offers little help in his A to Z of the beautiful but often lethal sea creature. Although Parris hates the thought of being snuffed out so soon, even he cannot know *how* soon. When it comes to the jellyfish, however, this latest edition of *Venom* can measure the span of mortality. Only a bullet, it says, kills faster than the fish some call the Electric Lady.

Making Sense. *Radio 4, 8.30pm.*

It's all silver-lined clouds in the first of Charles Handy's four inquiries into the changing face of the jobs market in Britain. But he ends his programme with a warning: later in the series, some silver linings will prove to have clouds. In a nutshell, Handy's philosophy is that the "jobs for life" era is over once and for all and that the "actor's career" will replace it in the shape of a succession of short-term engagements with no guarantee of a repeat booking. Handy gives me the impression that workaholics will get short shrift from him. For life to be a balanced whole, he says, there must be time to *be* as well as time to *do*.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren **6.30** Chris Evans **9.00** Kevin Greening **12.00** Lisa I'Anson, incl at **12.30-12.45pm** Newsbeat **2.00** Nicky Campbell **4.00** Dave Pearce, incl at **5.30-5.45** Newsbeat, and at **6.00** the Drive-In **7.00** Evening Session **10.00** Mark Radcliffe **Midnight** Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **1.30pm** Debbie Thrower **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Hayes over Britain **8.30** Tickling with Ivories **9.00** Can't Stop The Muzak **10.00** The Ella Fitzgerald Songbooks **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden including at **1.30** Pause for Thought **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester, including at **3.30** Pause for Thought

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** The Breakfast Programme, incl **8.55, 7.55** racing preview **8.35** The Magazine, incl **10.35** News from Europe **11.30** Environment News **12.00** Midday with Mair, incl **12.34pm** Moneycheck **1.15** Entertainment News **2.05pm** Ruscoe on Five, incl **3.15** Prime Minister's Question Time **4.00** John Inverdale Nationwide, with Julian Worricker **5.45** Entertainment News **7.00** News Extra, with Valerie Sanderson **7.35** The Tuesday Match **10.05** News Talk, with Nigel Cassidy **11.00** Night Extra, incl **11.15** The Financial World Tonight **12.05am** After Hours **2.05** Up All Night, with Rhod Sharp

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr **7.00** Simon Bates **10.00** Jonathan King **12.00** Tommy Boyd **2.00pm** Anna Raeburn **4.00** Scott Chisholm **7.00** Sean Bolger **10.00** James Whale **1.00-6.00am** Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in **BST. 5.00am** Newsdesk **5.30** Europe Today **6.00** Newsday **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** News **7.15** World Today **7.30** Anything Goes **8.00** News **8.15** Off the Shelf **8.30** New Ideas **8.50** Songs for Children **9.00** News in German **9.15** Thirty-Minute Drama **9.45** Good Books **10.00** News **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** In Good Voice **10.45** Sport **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Off the Shelf **12.00** Newsdesk **12.30** Meridian Feature **1.00** News in German **1.15** Britain Today **1.30** Jazz Score **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.05** Outlook **3.30** Multitrack: Hit List **4.00** News **4.05** Sport **4.15** BBC English **4.30** News in German **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** Business Report **5.45** Britain Today **6.00** News **6.10** World Today **6.25** Voicebox **6.30** News in German **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Jazz Score **8.00** Newshour **9.00** News **9.01** Outlook **9.25** Words of Faith **9.30** Megamix **10.00** News **10.05** World Business Report **10.15** Britain Today **10.30** Meridian Feature **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** World Today **11.45** Sport **Midnight** News **12.10am** Voicebox **12.15** Lets Go **12.30** Megamix **1.00** Newsdesk **1.30** Folk Routes **1.45** Britain Today **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Outlook **2.55** Words of Faith **3.00** Newsday **3.30** Meridian **4.00** News **4.15** Sport **4.30** Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths **6.00** Mike Read **9.00** Henry Kelly **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Concerto **3.00** Jamie Crick **6.00** Newsnight **6.30** Sonata **7.00** The Opera Guide **8.00** Evening Concert **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00am** Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono **9.00** Richard Skinner **12.00** Graham Dene **4.00pm** Nicky Horne **7.30** Paul Coyle **10.00** Mark Forrest **2.00-6.00am** Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air. Bach (Triple Concerto in A minor, BWV 1044); Kachaturian (Dance Suite); Strauss (Der Abend, Op 34 No 1); Torke (Tuesday); Berlioz (Overture Benvenuto Cellini; Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 1 in F minor)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young. Verdi (Overture: La Forza del destino); Bruch (Jubilate); Chopin (Two Polonaises, Op 40); Handel (Dixit dominus)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Tchaikovsky (Gopak); Stravinsky (The Soldier's Tale, excerpts) **10.23** *Artist of the Week* Boris Berovsky, piano Medtner (Forgotten Melodies Nos 4 and 5) **10.39** Gabrilei (Hic est filius dei); Mercadante (Decimino 1); Mozart (Ch'io mi scordi di te, K 505); Berg (Four Pieces, Op 5); Bach, arr Busoni (Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue, BWV 903); Liszt (Etude d'exécution transcandante No 4, Mazeppa)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Georg Muffat. Includes, Concerto Grosso No 6 in A minor (Quis hic?) and Toccata No 12 in B flat (Apparatus musico-organticus)

1.00pm BBC Festival of Brass. Grimethorpe Colliery Band. Arthur Butterworth (Overture Solent Forts); Philip Wilby (Unholy Sonnets); Wilfred Heaton (Contest Music); Kenneth Downie (Purcell Variations)

2.00 Stephen Hough, piano. Copland (Variations); Schumann (Kreisleriana); Mozart (12 variations in C on Ah, vous dirai-je Maman); Rachmaninov (Humoresque in G, Op 10 No 5; Melody in E, Op 3 No 3); Tchaikovsky (Humoresque in E minor, Op 10 No 2; Dumka, Op 59); Kreisler, arr Rachmaninov (Liebesleid), Tchaikovsky, arr Earl Wild (Dance of the Little Swans); Pabst / Hough (Concert Para phrase on Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty (r)

3.40 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Philharmonic under Vassiy Sinaisky. Tchaikovsky (Violin Concerto in D, Ballet, The Nutcracker, Act 2)

5.00 The Music Machine.

5.15 In Tune. Includes, Robert Johnson (The Witty Wanton); Haydn (Piano Trio in E flat, H XV 11), Strauss (Brentano Lieder)

7.30 Hallé Orchestra, under Kent Nagano. Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 10 in B minor); Mahler (Symphony No 5)

9.00 Between Heaven and Hell, with Michael Kustow and Ben Kingsley

9.25 Kantorow-Gifford Duo. Giuliani (Sonata in E minor, Op 25); Paganini (Sonata No 11 in A minor, Centone di sonate) (r)

10.00 Music Restored. Helen Garrison introduces pieces by Mozart, Glinka, Schubert and Rossini

10.45 Night Waves

11.30 Composer of the Week: Franz Schubert. Includes, Overture, Die Vierjährige Posten and Piano Sonata in G, D 894

12.30am-1.00 Jazz Notes

RADIO 4

6.00am News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **7.25, 8.25** Sport **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Tips from Women Gardeners **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Call Vincent Hanna: 0171-580-4444

10.00 News; Venom (FM only) See Choice

10.00 Daily Service (LW only)

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour

11.30 All in the Mind. Professor Anthony Clare explores morality and personal values in the first of a new six-part series

12.00 News; You and Yours, with Mark Easton

12.25pm Double Vision, Once again Miles Kington and Edward Enfield go head to head in the radio chat show with two hosts **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke

1.40 The Archers 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Books & Company. In the sixth of eight programmes, John Walsh looks at the best of the season's cookbooks (r)

2.30 Comparing Notes with Brian Kay, looks at English light music with the composers Ernest Tomlinson and Alan Owen

3.00 The Afternoon Shift

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope

4.45 Short Story: Seeing Double, by Daphne Glazer Being married to a twin can lead to twice as many problems in life (r)

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News

6.30 The Board Game, with Nigel Cassidy and panel Stephen Bayley, Paul Burden, Alastair Ross Goobey and Nigel Whittaker

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 File on 4. Mark Whitaker reports on current affairs and issues of the week

8.00 Science Now. Peter Evans explores the scientific side of Easter (r)

8.30 Making Sense. See Choice

9.00 In Touch. Tony Barringer with news, views and information for visually impaired people

9.30 Kaleidoscope. Paul Vaughan talks to 1993 Booker Prize winning author Roddy Doyle, about his new novel, *The Woman Who Walked into Doors* (r) **9.59 Weather**

10.00 The World Tonight, with Isabel Hilton

10.45 Book at Bedtime: Stalin's Nose, Alistair McGowan reads Rory MacLean's story (7/10)

11.00 Mediumwave. An in depth look at the week's events in the media (r)

11.30 Four Corners. The last in the series of off-beat travel reports Fergal Keane reports from Sri Lanka and Adam Fowler reports from the Russian Far East as the programme takes a look at some of the world's flourishing separatist movements (r)

12.00 News incl **12.27am** Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Devil in a Blue Dress, Paul Winfield reads Walter Mosley's novel (7/10) **12.48** Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service.**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

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In the spring time . . . when birds do sing

REVIEW



Peter Barnard

The Mad Scheduler, a beast locked in a cage for most of the year but released for Easter and other holidays, is consistent in his inconsistency. In particular, his manic approach to programming dictates that the standard junctions of viewing life will all be moved for the duration.

Thus the BBC *Nine O'Clock News* can be relied upon to turn up either an hour early or five minutes late and ITV's *News at Ten* appears, ah yes, at 11 (in last night's case). Why is this? *The Times* does not appear in the afternoon, nor the London *Evening Standard* over breakfast, just because a holiday has been declared.

Alas, The Mad Scheduler does not stop there. He is also a junkie for repeats and "specials", the usual fodder of holiday times, devices that give the schedules the appearance of mutton dressed as lamb: we must be mad cows to digest it as readily as we do.

And yet, and yet . . . it should be said in mitigation that one special and one repeat worked triumphantly last night. Another special, a disastrously limp *The Vicar of Dibley*, stained the hearth like a neglected Easter egg trodden on by children.

The good special and the good repeat were back to back on BBC2. First came **Attenborough in Paradise**, "a special edition of *The Natural World*", in which Sir David went to New Guinea to find birds of paradise. Rory Bremner is one among several who have paid the mortgage by sending up Attenborough's breathless and reverent delivery but I eschew such frippery: I love the man.

Attenborough is a truly great broadcaster. The tedious fools of the "been there, done that" tendency may mock his enthusiasm but I celebrate it. He is completely at home in front of a television camera, even if he is rarely at home when he is addressing it. Of his generation, only Sir David Frost can match Attenborough's extraordinary affinity with the medium.

Attenborough's pursuit of birds of paradise was, he said, a lifetime's ambition. He had a go 40 years back, but on that occasion only found the bits of the birds being used as adornment and even currency by natives yet to receive any junk mail from environmentalists.

Now Attenborough fared better, after climbing a tree. You fired a thin line over a branch (he explained) which had attached to it a climbing rope. At the other end of the rope was a weight, used as a counter balance. As the counter balance moved downwards so the other end of the rope moved upwards, with Attenborough attached to it.

At the top, birds of paradise in every conceivable hue, a fabulous riot of greens, blues, whites, yellows. And that was just one of them. A single male in a given group — flock sounds too prosaic — had his way with all the females. The other males sat singing their protest: "You call this paradise? You call this paradise?"

Elsewhere in New Guinea, the social behaviour of these birds is as different as their plumage. Lower down, food is plentiful so there is time for hanky-panky. On the high ground, 11,000 feet up, the birds only mate once because there is no time for polygamy: food is short, so both the female and the male have to hunt.

Urban moral: the closer you live to Sainsbury's, the more children you can have.

I thoroughly enjoyed **The Vicar of Dibley** (BBC1) when it was a proper series in which each episode lasted half an hour. Last night's "Easter special" was a loose piece of work stretched to 40 minutes. It showed. Thin joke followed thin joke. Dawn French was trying to give up chocolate for Easter. Unfortunately the writers, Paul Mayhew Archer and Richard Curtis, had given up wit.

I fear the dead hand of The Mad Scheduler again: "What was that ratings success we had last year? Thing with Dawn French? Let's have one of those . . . only longer."

The usual cast was up to the usual high standard, but they were making bricks with the straw on ration.

Which leaves me no further excuse to delay trying to write about **Anne Frank Remembered** (BBC2). This was a repeat: it was rushed into the schedules because it won an Oscar recently. If that was an excuse, it was a very good one indeed.

Rarely have I been so moved. Rarely has documentary television, good as it can be, reached this level of meticulous excellence. From the interviews with those who knew Anne Frank, through the narration (by Kenneth Branagh) to the direction of Jon Blair, this is a stunning account of the Dutch teenager's contribution to our knowledge of the Holocaust.

Perhaps the central strength of the film lies off-screen, in its untiring research, in its determination to find the people who really knew what happened. They spoke with a shattering dignity and there were so many defining moments that none can define the whole.

This Easter weekend began with a news report of a grotesque folly: the Polish authorities had allowed right-wing extremists who deny the Holocaust to protest inside Auschwitz. The weekend ended, in *Anne Frank Remembered*, with a survivor from Bergen-Belsen telling how she saw Anne Frank's body dumped with a pile of others after she had died of typhus induced by cruel neglect.

The survivor recalled how she had scrambled among the bodies, trying to close the eyes of as many as she could. How sad that the victims of Hitler lay dead with their eyes open, while, 50 years on, the Fascist skinheads of Poland live with their eyes closed.

● *Matthew Bond is on holiday*

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (22606)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (53977)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (7042644)

9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7275606)

9.45 Kilroy. Topical discussion (1335199)

10.30 Good Morning (s) (36731)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6038809)

12.05pm Room for Improvement (8816199) **12.35 Going for Gold** (s) (3967557)

1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (56064)

1.30 Regional News (94609354) **1.40 Neighbours** (Ceefax) (s) (44718118)

2.00 FILM: Diagnosis of Murder (1991) starring Dick van Dyke. When his friend is framed for murder, a doctor tries to clear his name. Directed by Barry Steinberg (Ceefax) (s) (33373)

3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (1840712) **3.50 Bodger and Badger** (r) (s) (7874286) **4.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks** (7603147) **4.10 Dennis the Menace** (Ceefax) (s) (2047199) **4.35 Out of Tune** (Ceefax) (s) (9646809) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (1142460) **5.10 The Lowdown** (Ceefax) (1348064)

5.35pm Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (409460)

6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) (644)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (996)

7.00 Holiday. Includes reports from Japan, Scotland, Germany and the Greek island of Lefkas (Ceefax) (s) (4083)

7.30 EastEnders. Pauline tells Mark the truth about her prison visits; Sarah brings bad news for Tiffany (Ceefax) (s) (880)

8.00 Great Ormond Street. Tonight two private patients are treated: baby Fatima, who has been flown to Britain by the Omani Government for heart surgery; and eight-year-old Bradley who needs plastic surgery (Ceefax) (3731)

8.30 The Brittas Empire. Comedy of errors with the pedantic leisure centre manager played by Chris Barrie (Ceefax) (s) (9538)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (2977)

9.30 Men Behaving Badly: Infidelity. Gary suspects Dorothy of having an affair (r) (Ceefax) (s) (61809)

10.00 Cardiac Arrest: Open and Shut. Realistic hospital drama series (Ceefax) (s) (47731)

10.30 They Think It's All Over. Comedian Nick Hancock compères the game of wit and sporting knowledge (Ceefax) (s) (835441)

11.05 FILM: Weird Science (1985) starring Anthony Michael Hall, Ilan Mitchell-Smith and Kelly LeBrock. Fantasy comedy. Two adolescent computer buffs create their dream woman in an experiment involving a computer, a doll and the centrefold from a pin-up magazine. Directed by John Hughes (Ceefax) (s) (873731)

12.35 FILM: Modern Love (1990) starring Burt Reynolds, Robby Benson and Karla DeVito. A newly-married couple reconcile their dreams with bizarre reality. Directed by Robby Benson (638300)

2.15am Weather (5817107)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode™ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+™ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. Videoplus+ (™), Pluscode (™) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

6.00am Open University: Lifestyles, Work and the Family (7084147) **6.50** Developing World (8862731)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax) (4956354)

7.30 Christopher Crocodile (r) (7592422) **7.35 Poddington Peas** (r) (7591793) **7.40 Oakie Doke** (s) (7512286) **7.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4929083) **8.15 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles** (r) (Ceefax) (7074977) **8.35 The Legend of Prince Valiant** (Ceefax) (s) (1201101)

9.05 Mighty Max (s) (7049557) **9.25 F.O.T.** (Ceefax) (7499977) **10.00 Playdays** (r) (s) (6020915) **10.25 Star Trek** (r) (4325712) **10.50 The Tick** (r) (1293064) **11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)** (r) (8961809)

12.00 See Hear! (r) (44644) **12.30pm Working Lunch** (72915) **1.00 Poddington Peas** (r) (16700422) **1.05 Oakie Doke** (r) (s) (42930325)

1.15 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (2/5) (r) (s) (806373)

2.15 The Andrew Neil Show (s) (7575151)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (7903354)

3.05 The Natural World (r) (7993489)

3.55 News (Ceefax) and weather (2130828)

4.00 Today's the Day (s) (809 **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (793)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceefax) (s) (6584165)

5.40 The Ladies of the House. Teresa Gorman explains how she gets her points across to male MPs (938557)

6.00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air (s) (478151)

6.25 Heartbreak High (Ceefax) (s) (376170)

7.10 The Ren and Stimpy Show (Ceefax) (s) (695967)

7.30 A Technophobes' Guide to the Future A series looking at the type of technology that is now shaping people's lives (s) (422)



Knitter Eileen Early (8.00pm)

8.00 An Obsession with . . . Rabbits (Ceefax) (1373)

8.30 Food and Drink. Michael Barry makes tiramisu and Jilly Goolden and Oz Clarke celebrate English wines (2080)

9.00 Murder One. Legal drama following a single high-profile case in and out of the courtroom (Ceefax) (s) (290373)

9.45 Straight from the Heart: Forbidden Love (Ceefax) (s) (272538)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (580489)

11.15 Moving Pictures (165354)

12.00 Screen Firsts. Clare Kilner's black comedy about food and relationships: *Symbiosis*; Jamie Thraves's story of life, death and the perfect woman: *The Hackney Downs* (34316)

12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

An Obsession with . . . Rabbits
BBC2, 8.00pm

Nicholas Southgate's film interviews nine people involved in one way or another with rabbits and seldom has half an hour passed so quickly. You would not think that one species could spark such a diversity of attitudes and interests. Rabbit lovers will warm to Patricia Tilke, who looks after 33 of the creatures at her home and reckons they have a healing influence. Eileen Early uses rabbit fur to knit jumpers, and is forthright about the creatures' sexual habits. A show competitor vacuum cleans her animal to ensure it is in pristine condition. The zoologist who has been observing rabbit behaviour for 12 years has taken DNA fingerprints of her entire colony. For the rest, however, the rabbit is there either to be used (in asthma research) or killed.

Without Walls
Channel 4, 9.00pm and 9.30pm

Nabil Shaban, the disabled actor, launches a lively attack on the treatment of disability in the cinema. His arguments are persuasive. Disability is often coupled with evil (look at the disfigured villains in the Bond films), disabled actors rarely get the big roles and disabled heroes, such as Douglas Bader or Christy Brown of *My Left Foot*, are played by the able-bodied. Shahan also points to a succession of films in which blind women are voyeuristically menaced by serial killers. The deaf brother in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, who is both played by a deaf actor and moves the plot along, is seen as a welcome atonement. In the other half of the show, *Without Walls* also salutes *The Professionals*, though whether this 1970s series is a classic or a piece of mindless thuggery, sexist and racist into the bargain, will be a matter for debate.

Straight from the Heart: Forbidden Love
BBC2, 9.45pm

In 1940, when the Germans occupied the Channel Islands, Dolly was a lonely young woman living in Guernsey. She fell in love with a German sailor. To her Willi was a person and not an enemy but with a war on such relationships had to be conducted in secret. The couple had a child, were married after the war and are still together 50 years later. But they cannot go back to Guernsey. Dolly and Willi recall their story in the direct, unsensational and honest style that has been the hallmark of this series. Two other couples tell of falling in love across political and social divides. Harry, a Protestant, met Chris, a Roman Catholic, while he was in the Army in Ulster. They married but prejudice forces them to live in England. Mark talks about his gay partner from Brazil and how their relationship fell foul of British immigration law.

Moving Pictures
BBC2, 11.15pm

Perhaps a shade too long after the event, two of tonight's items carry echoes from the Oscar ceremony. In deciding to profile the hitherto little-known Mira Sorvino, *Moving Pictures* has hit the bullseye. Her performance as the hooker in Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite* won her the award for best supporting actress. Here is Sorvino in person, articulate on herself and the peculiar hazards of working with Allen. Michael Radford, the Briton nominated for the Italian-made *Il Postino*, won no Oscar but the video diary he kept during the run-up to the awards is a revealing insight into how a director can suddenly become a hot property. The third main item, about Terry Gilliam's time-travel film *Twelve Monkeys*, is a standard backgrounder bordering on a publicity shot.

Peter Waymark

6.00am GMTV (5303660)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (7283625)

9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6007064)

10.00 Batman (s) (6017441)

10.25 Disney Cartoon (r) (5243267)

10.45 FILM: Cheetah (1989) Disney film set in Kenya, about a family who adopt an orphaned cub (6734084)

12.20pm HTV News and weather (Teletext) (6027793)

12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3953354)

12.55 Murder, She Wrote (r) (7905151) **2.00 Home and Away** (Teletext) (s) (54690880) **2.25 Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (54819915) **2.50 Vanessa** (Teletext) (s) (4155489)

3.20 News (Teletext) (7910644) **3.25 Regional News** (Teletext) (7919915)

3.30 The Magic House (s) (8055199) **3.40 Tots TV** (r) (s) (7863170) **3.50 Sooty and Co** (r) (s) (1846996) **4.15 Animaniacs** (r) (s) (2031538) **4.40 Island** (Teletext) (5536489)

5.10 Yan Can Cook (5571606)

5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (925083)

6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (472977)

6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (663118)

7.00 Emmerdale. A Glover is rushed to hospital(Teletext) (s) (9151)

7.30 West Eye View. Investigative current affairs (Teletext) (248)



The police cuff Reddington (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill. Boyden and Datta struggle in vain to get a conviction against a vicious pimp. With Tony O'Callaghan, Andrew Paul and Ian Reddington (Teletext) (5199)

8.30 Married for Life. Pam explains the art of being a housewife at Nikki's school's mother/daughter day (Teletext) (s) (4606)

9.00 Peak Practice. Andrew works hard to secure a life-saving operation for a patient (Teletext) (s) (7967)

10.00 News and weather (Teletext) (49199) **10.30 Regional News** (Teletext) (781731)

10.40 Savage Skies. The last in the series explores all aspects of winter weather (Teletext) (773002)

11.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (813489)

12.35 FILM: Hollow Point (1987) with Linda Purl and Terry Lester. A therapist who witnessed a murder is persuaded to take the stand, her evidence proves to be insufficient to convict the killer, leaving him free to embark on a campaign of terror against her. Directed by Bruce Seth Green (s) (443774)

2.25 Football Extra (1261923)

3.05 Late & Loud (s) (7456132)

4.05 The Chart Show (r) (s) (5275403)

5.00 Special Report (37590)

5.30 Morning News (59671)

As HTV WEST except:

5.10pm-5.40 On the Road with Elinor (5571606)

6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (663118)

7.30-8.00 Grass Roots (245)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:

12.55 Emmerdale (3961373)

1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79394809)

1.55 Home and Away (68494064)

2.25 Vanessa (54800267)

2.55-3.20 A Country Practice (1315624)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5571606)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (77460)

7.30-8.00 Check It Out (248)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:

12.55 Home and Away (3961373)

1.25 Chain Letters (79394809)

1.55 A Country Practice (44782793)

2.20 Vanessa (54801996)

2.50-3.20 Rustie's Real Cooks (4155489)

5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5571606)

6.25-7.00 Central News and Weather (663118)

7.30-8.00 Heart of the Country (248)

11.40 Film: Daughter of Darkness (790335)

1.25am Football Extra (4506584)

2.10 Late & Loud (7986855)

3.10 Hotel Babylon (9557331)

3.45 Funny Business (81847861)

4.10 Jobfinder (8621565)

5.20 Asian Eye (1217942)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:

12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (3961373)

1.25 Home and Away (79394809)

1.55 Shortland Street (44782793)

2.20 Vanessa (54801996)

2.50-3.20 A Tale of Four Sea Ports (4155489)

5.10 Home and Away (5571606)

5.37-5.40 Three Minutes - Making It Happen (117538)

6.00 Meridian Tonight (712)

6.30-7.00 Michael Barry's Undiscovered Cooks (444)

7.30-8.00 Serve You Right Live (248)

5.00am Freescreen (37590)

S4C

Starts: 6.30 Fifteen to One (41644) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (79915) **9.00 Saved by the Bell: The College Years** (26248) **9.30 New Gamesmaster** (8567557) **9.55 California Dreams** (6864354) **10.20 Mork and Mindy** (6026199) **10.50 The Adventures of Tintin** (1202712) **11.15 The Pink Panther Show** (5737809) **11.40 Extreme** (9508606) **12.30pm Madeline** (67083) **1.00 Slot Meithrin** (72002) **1.30 Keepers of the Kingdom** (66557) **2.30 Travelog Treks** (625) **3.00 Food File** (5712) **3.30 Cezanne Private View** (170) **4.00 Jimmy's** (977) **4.30 My Generation** (489) **5.00 5 Pump: Uned 5** (7557) **5.30 Fifteen to One** (441) **6.00 Newyddion** (861847) **6.15 Heno** (372354) **7.00 Pobol Y Cwm** (783915) **7.25 Sgrin Ti Syniad?** (941828) **8.00 Dau Rhys (Ar Frys)** (6441) **8.30 Newyddion** (2248) **9.00 And the Beat Goes On** (1847) **10.00 Brookside** (30441) **10.30 Supercrips and Rejects** (56489) **11.00 C4D: The Professionals** (3460) **11.30 Father Ted** (21880) **12.00 Film: December Bride** (115229)

6.30am Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (41644)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (79915)

9.00 Saved by the Bell: The College Years (r) (26248)

9.30 New Gamesmaster (r) (8567557) **9.55 California Dreams** (r) (6864354) **10.20 Mork and Mindy** (r) (6026199)

10.50 Tintin (r) (1202712) **11.15 The Pink Panther** (r) (5737809)

11.40 Extreme (r) (s) (9508606)

12.30pm Sesame Street (r) (65828) **1.30 Ovide** (68417915)

1.55 Hotel a La Swing (b/w) A musical short with Eddie Foy Jr and the Mullen Sisters. Directed by Roy Mack (44780335)

2.20 FILM: Footsteps in the Fog (1955) with Stewart Granger and Jean Simmons. A thriller, set in Edwardian London, about a maid who blackmails her employer after he poisons his wife. Directed by Arthur Lubin (963557)

4.00 Jimmy's (r) (Teletext) (s) (977) **4.30 Fifteen to One**(Teletext) (s) (489) **5.00 The Montel Williams Show** (Teletext) (s) (7588712) **5.50 Terrytoons** (110625)

6.00 The Avengers (r) (Teletext) (75002)

7.00 Channel 4 News (781373)

7.55 The Slot(542016)

8.00 Motormania. The last of the series on motoring looks at the progress, or lack of it, in easing congestion on the roads (Teletext) (s) (6441)

8.30 Brookside. Ron realises it is time for action and Mo discovers the truth about Rosie (Teletext) (s) (2248)



Actor Nabil Shaban (9.00pm)

9.00 CHOICE Without Walls: Supercrips and Rejects (Teletext) (8915)

9.30 CHOICE Without Walls: C4PD — The Professionals (Teletext) (87847)

10.00 And the Beat Goes On. Nicholas Spencer's political aspirations are under threat as he and his wife Connie struggle to try to cover up the tragic hit and run incident, hoping to avoid a public scandal (Teletext) (s) (3564712)

11.05 Big Mouth. (4/9) Tony Parsons with an opinionated look at all manner of topics (Teletext) (s) (1852481)

12.10am Nurses. Black comedy set in a Florida hospital.(Teletext) (s) (1899403)

12.40 FILM: Counterfeiters (1948, b/w) with John Sutton and Douglas Blackley. A B-movie thriller about a Scotland Yard detective who joins forces with a US Secret Service agent to bring a counterfeiting gang to justice. Directed by Peter Stewart (2448519)

1.55 Transformations. The first of a four-part examination of the new ways of thought in man's relationship to the world from a scientific, philosophical and ethical point of view (r) (4518836) Ends at **2.55**

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Lindun (99793) **9.00** Press Your Luck (8782625) **9.20** Love Connection (9691354) **9.45** The Oprah Winfrey Show (1156560) **10.40** Jeopardy! (2877354) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (9435286) **12.00** Beachy (97536) **1.00pm** Hotel (15644) **2.00** Geraldo (86731) **3.00** Court TV (5118) **3.30** The Oprah Winfrey Show (5830002) **4.15** Undun (9487151) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (9170) **6.00** The Simpsons (3488) **6.30** Jeopardy! (7441) **7.00** LAPD (7199) **7.30** M*A*S*H (3625) **8.00** Jag (52199) **9.00** The X-files (32335) **10.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (35422) **11.00** Melrose Place (19557) **12.00** Late Show (7345010) **12.45am** The Trials of Rosie O'Neill (6771328) **1.30** Anything But Love (78958) **2.00** Hit Mix (3218076)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
9.30am Fashion TV (77808) **10.30** Abc Nightline (66980) **1.30pm** CBS News This Morning Part I (45712) **2.30** CBS News This Morning Part II (37809) **3.30** Fashion TV (5847) **5.00** Live at Five (13557) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (45828) **7.30** Sportsline (33267) **8.30** Target (3996) **11.30** CBS Evening News (10557) **12.30am** ABC World News Tonight (66120) **1.30** Tonight With Adam Boulton Replay (38313) **2.30** Target (52300) **3.30** Fashion TV (37045) **4.30** CBS Evening News (46662) **5.30** ABC World News Tonight (91671)

SKY MOVIES

1.00am To Joy (1949) (57064) **3.00** All These Women (1964) (77083) **10.00** To Dance with the White Dog (1993) (98977) **12.00** Pocahontas: The Legend (1995) (67306) **2.00pm Howard: A New Breed of Hero** (1986) (58002) **4.00** Digger (1993) (44002) **6.00** To Dance with the White Dog (1993) (46538) **8.00** Knights (1992) (91083) **10.00** The Pelican Brief (1993) (80375460) **12.20am** This Boy's Life (1993) (2003871) **2.15** Natural Causes (1994) (5515685) **3.45-6.00** Ill Butterfly (1993) (25326571)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

1.00pm Easy Living (1949) (6426) **6.00** The Mountain (1956) (11880) **8.00** Memphis Belle (1990) (23625) **10.00** Jaws 3 (1983) (238625) **11.45** To the Devil a Daughter (1976) (323712) **1.20am** Who's That Knocking at My Door? (1968) (6742571) **2.50-4.10** Klondike Annie (1936) (6142107)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm (1938) (56606) **8.00** The Little Mermaid (1992) (99977) **9.00 Robin Hood Junior** (1975) (17286) **10.00 Dennis** (1993) (29847) **12.00** On an Island with You (1948) (65248) **2.00pm It's Great to Be Young!** (1956) (713489) **3.50 Dennis** (1993) (194625) **5.30** The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) (34712) **7.30 Heli and High Water: The Making of Cutthroat Island** (1993) (5335) **8.00** In the Line of Fire (1993) (15414002) **10.10 Beyond the Law** (1994) (778793) **12.05am Florida** (1993) (935665) **2.05 Deadly Advice** (1993) (703720) **3.40-6.00 Harmful Intent** (1993) (12574687)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Quack Attack (49697069) **6.30** Chip 'n' Dale (49032286) **7.00** Ducktales (10461625) **7.30** Winnie the Pooh (10473460) **8.00** Quack Attack (93642335) **8.30** Chip 'n' Dale (93641606) **9.00** The Shnookums and Meat Funny Cartoon Show (93665286) **9.30** Quack Attack (15881575) **10.00** Ducktales (49023538) **10.30** Chip 'n' Dale (93654170) **11.00** Winnie the Pooh (42023170) **11.30** Quack Attack (42031199) **12.00** Best of Walt Disney Presents (22536408) **1.00** FILM: Polly (49607460) **2.30** Deepwater Haven (80604829) **3.00** Quack Attack (87908460) **3.30** Ducktales (80609373) **4.00** Chip 'n' Dale (80688680) **4.30** The Shnookums and Meat Funny Cartoon Show (80684064) **5.00** Boy Meets World (87987977) **5.30** Danger Bay (80608644) **6.00** Tarzan (80605557) **6.30** Dinosaurs (80696809) **7.00** Thunder Alley (87990441) **7.30** FILM: The Mighty Ducks (16812539) **9.30-10.00** Dinosaurs (21186967)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Cycling (12286) **8.30** Motorcycling (18538) **10.00** Motorsports (49712) **11.00** Speed (1002712) **11.15** Football (5155118) **12.00** Boxing (51278) **1.00pm** Speedworld (85538) **2.00** Mountainbike (24915) **3.00** Trickshot (69847) **5.00** Darts (7354) **6.00** Weightlifting (98002) **7.00** Powerlifting (90373) **8.00** Live Boxing (87809) **10.00** Basketball (33248) **11.30-12.30am** Snooker (50199)

SKY SPORTS

7.00 News (46625) **7.30** Tartan Extra (58460) **8.00** World of Speed and Beauty (64557) **8.30** Racing News (63828) **9.00** Aerobics Oz Style (47980) **9.30** Snooker. British Open (11373) **11.30** Monday Night Football (27286) **1.30pm** Tartan Extra (94286) **2.00** US PGA Golf: Belisouth Classic (826441) **5.00** World Wrestling Federation Mania (2286) **6.00** Sports Centre (6977) **6.30** Skiff Sailing (3147) **7.00** Super League: Halifax v Castleford (28532625) **8.25** Sports Centre (750354) **9.30** The Footballer's Football Show (87915) **10.30** Sports Centre (44793) **11.00** Asian Football Show (55373) **12.00** Super League (31300) **2.00am** The Footballer's Football Show (54010) **3.00-3.30** Sports Centre (87132)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Golden Rugby: England v France 1991 (9262129) **10.30** Golden Gloves (9948422) **11.30** The Golden Age of Motor Racing (3629506) **12.30am-1.00** Blood, Sweat and Glory (7884045)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Klatz TV **5.45** Chronicles of Revival **6.15** Colin Dye **6.45-7.00** Christian Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (8606199) **7.55** As the World Turns (1579731) **8.50** Peyton Place (3621644) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (2787129) **10.10-11.00** Another World (3234248)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (7002441) **11.30** Trailtrack (7003170) **12.00** Dive the World (4117070) **12.30pm** The Real Food of China (1409998) **1.00** Getaway (3238847) **1.30** Around the World (1408267) **2.00** Discover America (1328593) **3.00** Globetrotter (4345538) **3.30** Around the World (7541460) **3.55-4.00** Holiday Shop

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Battle of the Bulge (7093783)



Julia Roberts and Denzel Washington (Sky Movies, 10.00pm)

5.00 The Life and Times of Lord Mountbatten (4369118) **6.00-7.00** Biography (1417915)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm The Invisible Man (9353248) **8.00** FILM: Aliens from Another Planet (9366712) **10.00** Close **1.00am** The Six Million Dollar Man (9841565) **2.00** FILM: Aliens from Another Planet (6024855) **3.40-4.00** The Malong of Apollo 13 (56066565)

TLC

9.00am Surprise Chefs (3194441) **9.30** Grow Your Own (1074998) **10.00** Stagestruck (4043880) **10.30** Our House (3190625) **11.00** Room for Improvement (7275793) **11.30** Crahwise (7276422) **12.00** Julia Child (3181977) **12.30pm** The Frugal Gourmet (1078712) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (1121335) **1.30** Furniture to Go (1077083) **2.00** Our House (8523809) **2.30** Gardens Without Borders (5480460) **3.00** Screaming Reels (8634644) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (8486977)

UK GOLD

7.00am Angels (1124422) **7.30** Neighbours (1143557) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (3180248) **8.30** EastEnders (3112847) **9.00** The Bill (3103199) **9.30** The Sullivans (1076354) **10.00** The Bill (1132441) **11.00** Bullseye (7277151) **11.30** Cold One Out (9278638) **12.05pm** Sons and Daughters (23888915) **12.30** Neighbours (1070170) **1.00** EastEnders (4529557) **1.35** Sylvia (2826002) **2.15** Robin's Nest (3589847) **2.50** The Detectives (3223606) **3.30** The Bill (6461335) **4.00** Casualty (7291731) **5.00** Every Second Counts (4609719) **5.45** 'Allo 'Allo (9954731) **6.25** EastEnders (9150847) **7.00** The Best of TOTP (4983977) **8.00** Bullseye (8637731) **8.30** The Detectives (8525588) **9.00** The Sweeney (4912489) **10.00** The Bill (2076793) **10.35** Classic Sport (8724915) **11.35** Miami Vice (6137915) **12.35am** FILM: Devil's Canyon (20874010) **2.00** Shopping

TCC

6.00am Tiny and Crow (55996) **7.00** Sesame Street (78422) **8.00** Barney (91625) **8.30** Dinobabies (90996) **9.00** Art Attack (1325719) **9.15** No Naked Flames (7573267) **9.30** Ready or Not (28267) **10.00** Heartbreak High (66606) **10.30** Rang Time (79660) **11.00** Madison (97712) **11.30** Babysitters Club (98441) **12.00** Garfield (94712) **12.30pm** Felix (22093) **1.00** Earthworm Jim (11054) **1.30** Creepy Crawlers (21354) **2.00** Bill and Ted (3557) **2.30** Granadale High (9626) **3.00** Ed (2064) **3.30** Pink, Pannhor (4151) **4.00** California Dreams (3286) **4.30-5.00** Heartbreak High (2170)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Banana Sandwich (84080) **7.00** Killer Tomatoes (44267) **7.30** Littlest Pet Shop (56002) **8.00** Wishbone (62199) **8.30** Rude Dog (54170) **9.00** Biker Mice (45422) **9.30** Clarissa (62441) **10.00** Rugrats (29490) **10.30** Aaahh!! (41606) **11.00** Rocko (51996) **11.30** Doug (52625) **12.00** Sister Sister (65266) **12.30pm** Pete and Pete (93557) **1.00** Capital Critters (43538) **1.30** Littlest Pet Shop (92828) **2.00** Wishbone (9511) **2.30** Rude Dog (6118) **3.00** Count Duckula (6248) **3.30** Turtles (8335) **4.00** Tales of the Cryptkeeper (8070) **4.30** Rugrats (6354) **5.00** Sister Sister (1793) **5.30** Mission Top Secret (7606) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (7847) **6.30-7.00** Clarissa (8199)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Time Travellers (9471712) **4.30** Human/Nature (6477996) **5.00** Treasure Hunters (8546489) **5.30** Voyager (6468248) **6.00** Lifeboat (6498489) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9178335) **7.30** Arthur C Clarke's World of Strange Powers (6478625) **8.00** Eurofighter (4930267) **9.00** Barnefield (4903731) **10.00** Classic Wheels (4913118) **11.00-12.00** Supership (1131712)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Woman in the Window (40501701) **2.00pm** The Wild Wild West (4048335) **3.00** Danger Man (72740641) **4.00** FILM: Passport to Pimlico (9463335) **5.30** Death Valley Days (6488002) **6.00** The Green Hornet (6485915) **6.30** The Persuaders (9105489) **7.30** Sapphire and Steel (6465151) **8.00** The Prisoner (4987793) **9.00** Alien Nation (4907557) **10.00-12.00** FILM: Orca the Killer Whale (72733359)

PARAMOUNT

7.00pm Different Strokes (1557) **7.30** Duo South (98422) **9.00** Soap (64460) **9.30** Taxi (73793) **10.00** Fraser (66915) **10.30** Bosom Buddies (42335) **11.00** Pigsty (42977) **11.30** Sledgehammer (56373) **12.30am** Benson (96652) **1.00** Wings (92010) **1.30** Laverne and Shirley (12316) **2.00** Entertainment Tonight (16229) **2.30** Bosom Buddies (22836) **3.00** Pigsty (85774) **3.30-4.00** Sledgehammer (19316)

UK LIVING

6.00am Kilroy (5111847) **7.00** Esther (4306489) **7.30** The Young and the Restless (4106354) **8.30** The Ornamental Kitchen Garden (89044422) **9.00** The Reluctant Cook (8933267) **9.35** Kate and Allie (84319777) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (89140082) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8407267) **11.55** Brookside (4216828) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (8771712) **1.25** Crossroads (6041170) **2.00** Agony Hour (2704151) **3.00** Live at Three (60896254) **4.00** Infatuation Uk (2646606) **4.30** Crossroads (3333644) **5.05** Lingo (34497278) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (2659170) **6.00** Bewitched (2656083) **6.30** Brookside (6344847) **7.05** Masterchef 92 (9104593) **7.35** The Joker's Wild (6290915) **8.05** Street Legal (9611731) **9.00** FILM: Women of Valor (3201151) **11.00** The Sex Files (8009489) **11.30-12.00** More Sex Life (2709606)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Bonglas, Dinor (4809) **5.30** Night Hood (865199) **5.55** Pop Slot (935996) **6.00** Batman (5985) **6.30** Catchphrase (4915) **7.00** Travel Pursuit (7373) **7.30** Me and the Boys (5129) **8.00** FILM: Da (36199) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (156061) **11.00** Sirens (21441) **12.00** Trivial Pursuit (52774) **12.30am** Me and the Boys (49768) **1.00** Batman (38836) **1.30** GP (58132) **2.00** Big Brother Jake (52045) **2.30** Sirens (14132) **3.30** GP (55132) **4.00** Trivial Pursuit (70497) **4.30-5.00** Night Hood (22229)

MTV

7.30am Bob Marley Special (38386) **8.00** Morning Mix Featuring Cinemaxx (905557) **11.00** Hit List UK (19606) **12.00** Greatest Hits (10248) **1.00pm** Music Non-Stop (94809) **3.00** Select MTV (32165) **4.00** Hanging Out (5538) **6.00** Dial MTV (2793) **6.30** MTV Sports (6373) **7.00** US Top 20 Countdown (18793) **8.00** Boy Bands Greatest Hits (66002) **9.30** Amour (23731) **10.30** The Mavs (13847) **11.00** Alternative Nation (86638) **1.00am** Night Videos (14680845) **5.00** Morning Mix (750389)

VH-1

7.00am Power Breakfast (3237

BUSINESS

HIT AND MYTH 34
GRAHAM SEARJEANT ON COLD COMFORTS FOR THE JOBLESS

TUESDAY APRIL 9 1996
BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Big fraud trials to resume at Bailey

BY ROBERT MILLER AND JON ASHWORTH

MAJOR fraud trials are set to return to the Old Bailey early in June. Courtroom 12 in the Central Criminal Court is undergoing extensive refurbishment before the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) brings its first prosecution in what it hopes will become the home for future fraud trials.

The SFO case involves allegations of fraud and false accounting against Abbas Gokal, chairman of the Gulf Group, and stems from the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. One charge mentions $1.2 billion, the largest single sum ever used in an indictment against an individual.

The Court Service, which agreed to help the SFO by setting aside a special courtroom, is installing 21-inch television screens for each pair of jurors. This is expected to help in the increasing number of SFO cases in which evidence is given by witnesses overseas. The court will also have a proper witness box. Unlike Chichester Rents, in Chancery Lane, host to the Maxwell, George Walker and other "block-buster" trials, Court 12 will have separate entrances for witnesses, defendants and spectators.

Chris Dickson, senior assistant director of the SFO, said: "The move to Court 12 in the Old Bailey restores the proper formality and dignity to these trials. It is right that cases of this seriousness are heard at the Old Bailey itself."

The move coincides with the most radical reforms by the SFO since its formation eight years ago. The SFO has been reorganised into five multi-disciplinary teams liaising with police forces. The reforms are intended to increase flexibility and responsiveness.

Dented image, page 34

Dow dives on fears of rising inflation

BY RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK AND JANET BUSH

WALL STREET share prices plunged yesterday in a delayed reaction to Friday's slump in the American bond market on fears of rising inflation and interest rates.

By midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was 138.73 points lower at 5,544.15, a drop of 2.44 per cent. Treasury bonds were off another full percentage point after dropping by about two points on news that the American economy created another 140,000 jobs in the non-farm sector in March, more than double what economists had been expecting.

At mid-session yesterday, the yield on the Treasury's benchmark long bond had risen to 6.93 per cent from 6.83 per cent on Friday.

The stock market was shut for Good Friday, leaving yesterday as the first opportunity for shares to react to the fallout in the bond market on fears that the economy is robust enough that the US Federal Reserve will not cut American interest rates again and that inflationary pressures may mount. The London market is expected to react — but perhaps not dramatically — when it opens today after the Easter break.

Wall Street 33

Stocks dropped the minute the opening bell sounded on the New York Stock Exchange. When the Dow registered a loss of 50 points, circuit breakers — introduced after the 1987 stock market crash — were triggered, preventing trading in stock index futures in an attempt to slow the selling.

Dealers said that the reaction to Friday's figures had been widely expected, that the mood was relaxed and that a rapid recovery was likely.

One trader said: "This was very scripted, very expected. It's as if the market has been there, done that, seen it all before. Most folks are complacent."

Many market operators compared the fall to the 171-point plunge a month ago that was also triggered by strong employment figures. After that setback, share prices quickly recovered and marched to new highs. This experience is giving the market confidence during the current price fall.

But a growing number of analysts believe that the New York stock market is heading for a more serious setback this time. Michael Metz, equity strategist at Oppenheimer, the fund management group, said: "The underpinnings of the market are being shaken. Although a lot of people seem to think this is just another bargain-hunting opportunity, we are actually heading for a big correction of 10 per cent over the next few months."

David Schulman, market strategist at Salomon Brothers, said: "This is going to be messier than March. We're in a correction of at least 200 points on the Dow — maybe not immediately but over the next few weeks."

With US interest rates apparently at their lows and corporate profits sluggish, some analysts think the market is overvalued and the bargain hunters are on the wrong track. The Commerce Department said yesterday that profits of US manufacturing companies had weakened in the fourth quarter to 5.1 cents a dollar of sales from 5.8 cents in the third quarter.

Nervousness about Wall Street's reaction to Friday's bond sell-off and jobs figures badly hit Far Eastern markets overnight. On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the 225-Nikkei share average closed down 271.60 points at 21,424.24, a loss of 1.25 per cent. There was also a knock-on effect on markets in Mexico, which are particularly sensitive to developments in the US. At mid-session, the stock market had fallen 1.55 per cent and the Mexican peso was sharply lower.

The dollar held quite steady in New York trading, having been battered overnight in the Far East. At midday, in New York, the dollar was quoted at DM1.4773, up from DM1.4750, but still well below Friday's level of DM1.4842.



Wall Street traders saw stocks plunge the minute the opening bell sounded

Boost for BAe as Airbus wins £1bn China deal

FROM TOM WALKER IN HONG KONG

AIRBUS INDUSTRIE is on the verge of selling nearly £1 billion worth of aircraft in China, breaking Boeing's dominance in the world's biggest potential market and guaranteeing large-scale orders and jobs for British Aerospace.

Li Peng, the Chinese premier, will this week visit Airbus headquarters in Toulouse, southern France, placing orders and options on between 40 and 100 Airbus narrow-bodied A320s.

The dramatic switching of favours across the Atlantic is a product of China's displeasure at America's bellicose stance over Taiwan, dogged marketing by Airbus and some adroit muffling of anti-Peking sentiment by Jacques Chirac, the French President.

"It's a major, major breakthrough for Airbus," said a company source in Hong Kong last night. "A clear message has been sent to the Americans that nothing can be taken for granted."

Industry analysts estimate that China will need at least 100 aircraft in the 150-seat category during the next five years. The two rival products — the Airbus A320 and Boeing's revamped 737 family — are both in demand, and China must place orders now for aircraft to be delivered in 1998. BAe, which has a 25 per cent interest in Airbus, builds the wings for Airbus jets at Filton, near Bristol, and Chester.

The A320s will be distributed between China Southern, Air China and Sichuan airlines. The unit cost, with spare parts thrown in, is expected to be about $30 million, a significant discount on the normal list price for an A320 of $45 million.

Boeing has sold about 230 aircraft to China since President Nixon's historic rapprochement with Peking in 1972. McDonnell Douglas, whose planes are assembled from imported kits near Shanghai, has nearly 40 aircraft in service there, while Airbus has so far been able to sell just 35 jets to the Chinese.

"The fact is that the Chinese don't like to put all their eggs in one basket," said the Airbus source. "There is a feeling that it is now Airbus's turn; we've a lot of catching up to do."

Pilot run for work project

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

A CONTROVERSIAL new government training programme aimed at helping the long-term unemployed to find jobs begins in two trial areas today.

The Project Work scheme will be tested in Hull and Medway and Maidstone in Kent, providing 6,000 places over the next year for 18 to 50-year-olds who have been out of work for longer than two years.

But critics have attacked the scheme, saying that those who refuse to enter the programme could have their benefits scrapped.

Eric Forth, the Employment Secretary, denied the scheme was based on the US workfare programme. He said yesterday that he hoped no one would refuse a place on the programme, which involves 13 weeks of help in looking for a job followed by 13 weeks of work experience. Mr Forth said: "We just don't think we can have people on benefit indefinitely. Most long-term unemployed want to work and will value the help this scheme gives."

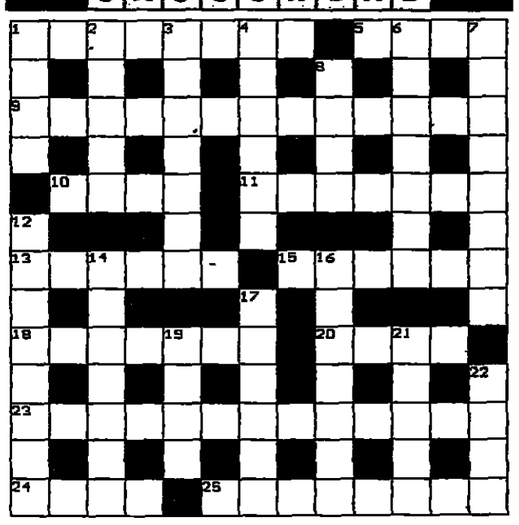
He added: "Anyone who refuses to enter or drops off the work experience programme for no good reason will lose some or all of their benefits."

Mr Forth said that he hoped many people would find a job after the initial 13 weeks. Otherwise, they would be offered work experience, including community and environmental projects.

Ian McCartney, the Labour Party's employment spokesman, said: "This is merely the Government trying to give the impression they are doing something to tackle long-term unemployment."

Graham Searjeant, page 34

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 751

ACROSS
1 One asserting title (8)
5 Constituent of molecule (4)
9 Giving-way stage (8,5)
10 Part of leg; climb (rapidly up) (4)
11 Whole number (7)
13 With husky voice (6)
15 Desire for drink (6)
18 Squirrel away (7)
20 African republic (4); (meal) for taking away (2,2)
23 Allowing error margin (2,3,4,4)
24 Meat-in-tortilla dish (4)
25 Restraint in car (4,4)

DOWN
1 Dice shape (4)
2 First Hebrew letter (5)
3 Essential ingredients (7)
4 Holy See diplomat (6)
6 Firing lever (7)
7 Ripeness (8)
8 Catch sight of; tiny mark (4)
12 Slowly remove (from use) (5,3)
14 Self-denying (7)
16 Stressful position (3,4)
17 Lower value, adulterate (6)
19 A garden; a PM (4)
21 Tour leader (5)
22 Inclination; inclined (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 750
ACROSS: 1 Atrocity 5 Feet 8 Go places 9 Peer 11 Lie in 12 Traduce 13 Regime 15 Regent 18 Chucker 19 Optic 21 Ruby 22 Catapult 23 Mien 24 Feckless
DOWN: 1 Angular 2 Rupee 3 Chain-smoke 4 Twenty 6 Execute 7 Three 10 Take to task 14 Grumble 16 Tacitus 17 Urbane 18 CD-ROM 20 Truce

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Lang leads UK's biggest trade mission to Japan

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

THE largest ever UK trade mission to Japan, headed by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, arrives in Tokyo today in a fresh effort to narrow Britain's trade gap.

During his four-day visit, Mr Lang will visit the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) to seek more action by Japan to open its domestic markets. He is likely to urge Shumpei Tsukahara, his MITI counterpart, to continue deregulating the economy and remove a thicket of barriers to international competition.

Japanese business leaders, who admire Britain's expertise in deregulation, have invited Mr Lang to talk about the British experience in this field. In the past year Japan's Government has taken some cautious steps to reduce red tape and improve transparency.

While Mr Lang pursues commercial diplomacy, 135 British businessmen, including senior executives from British Aerospace, Boots and Manchester Airport will establish if the Japanese market has become any easier to crack.

Included in the mission is a 20-strong contingent of garden equipment firms hoping to tap into Japan's expanding market. "The fact that most Japanese don't have gardens, or only a postage stamp, doesn't matter," a British Embassy official said. "They want to have all the right gear."

The embassy espies rich pickings in the growing leisure market. A nation of workaholics is at last taking more time off. British sales of luxuries like golf clubs and yachts have fallen victim to the stagnant economy, but firms catering to humbler pastimes are discovering a profitable niche.

Japan's growing taste for foreign goods, stimulated by the strong yen, boosted British exports last year by 27 per cent to £3.8 billion. Japanese exports to Britain rose 9 per cent to £9.7 billion. British car sales are rising sharply, but whisky sales have been hit by Japan's discriminatory liquor taxes.

Shake-up in electrical retailing predicted

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S electrical retailing sector has emerged as one of the fastest growing areas of consumer spending but margins are set to come under further pressure and another round of restructuring is on the way, according to a report published today by Verdict, the retail consultant.

The report is published as potential buyers consider making an offer for the electrical retailing business of Norweb, the regional electricity company. Verdict expects Norweb to attract widespread interest and believes the two companies that would find it most valuable would be Comet, the Kingfisher subsidiary, and ScottishPower. Norweb has 2.5 per cent of the electrical retail market, about half of Comet's share of 5.4 per cent and dwarfed by Dixons Group's 16.7 per cent.

The report says: "If Comet were to acquire Norweb, its number two position in the market would be consolidated. If ScottishPower won a battle, it would become number two and put a serious dent in Kingfisher's ambitions in the electricals market."

The proposed sale of the Norweb business leaves the field open for Dixons to launch a determined price campaign. Verdict said that it is not clear why Dixons had not already used its advantage to lower prices and deal a knockout blow to weaker competitors.

Verdict also expects further large-scale closures of high street outlets and that already wafer-thin margins will be squeezed further. However, Verdict expects demand for white goods to improve as the tax increases, rising interest rates and falling house prices of last year are reversed during 1996.

Labour leader seeks to win over business world

Blair sets out stall in US

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

TONY BLAIR is set to launch a bid for the hearts and minds of American investors in a series of meetings and lunches on Wall Street during his visit to the US which starts tomorrow.

One of his first engagements is a meeting at Lazard Frères, the investment bank, with senior US financial figures in which Mr Blair will explain Labour's attitudes towards inward investment and markets. He will have to clarify his vision of stakeholder capitalism to men more accustomed to red-blooded competitive capitalism.

On Thursday he will give a speech titled "Labour's approach to the new global economy" at a lunch hosted by the British American Chamber of Commerce.



Blair: working lunches

Among the 550 guests will be representatives from most of the leading US and UK banks, investment houses and accounting firms.

The lunch will follow a breakfast in Mr Blair's honour at which Henry Kissenger is the main speaker. Mr Blair has a considerable task ahead of him because most US bankers and businessmen view him and his revamped Labour Party as an unknown quantity. Unlike Labour leaders of a few years ago, however, Mr Blair is not viewed with suspicion or hostility on Wall Street so much as puzzlement.

"People tend to think he is a better technocrat than John Major, but no one thinks he would be radically different," one Wall Street analyst said.

"I don't know what the new Labour means," said another. "It's obvious that Blair would not mean a swing to a radical left government."

Mr Blair is likely to want to allay the concern that traditionally causes ructions in the currency markets when Labour wins an election and will promise not to reverse the biggest Tory changes.

